UNCLE CHARLIE'S Fables

MAY
NO. 3

10¢

ALL NEW AND ORIGINAL STORIES

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Jetta
Mystery Comics
Fantastic Tales
Cosmo Cat
Startling Comics
Strange Mysteries
Daring Adventures
Startling Comics
Mystery Tales
Exciting Comics
Famous Funnies
Strange Worlds
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Jetta
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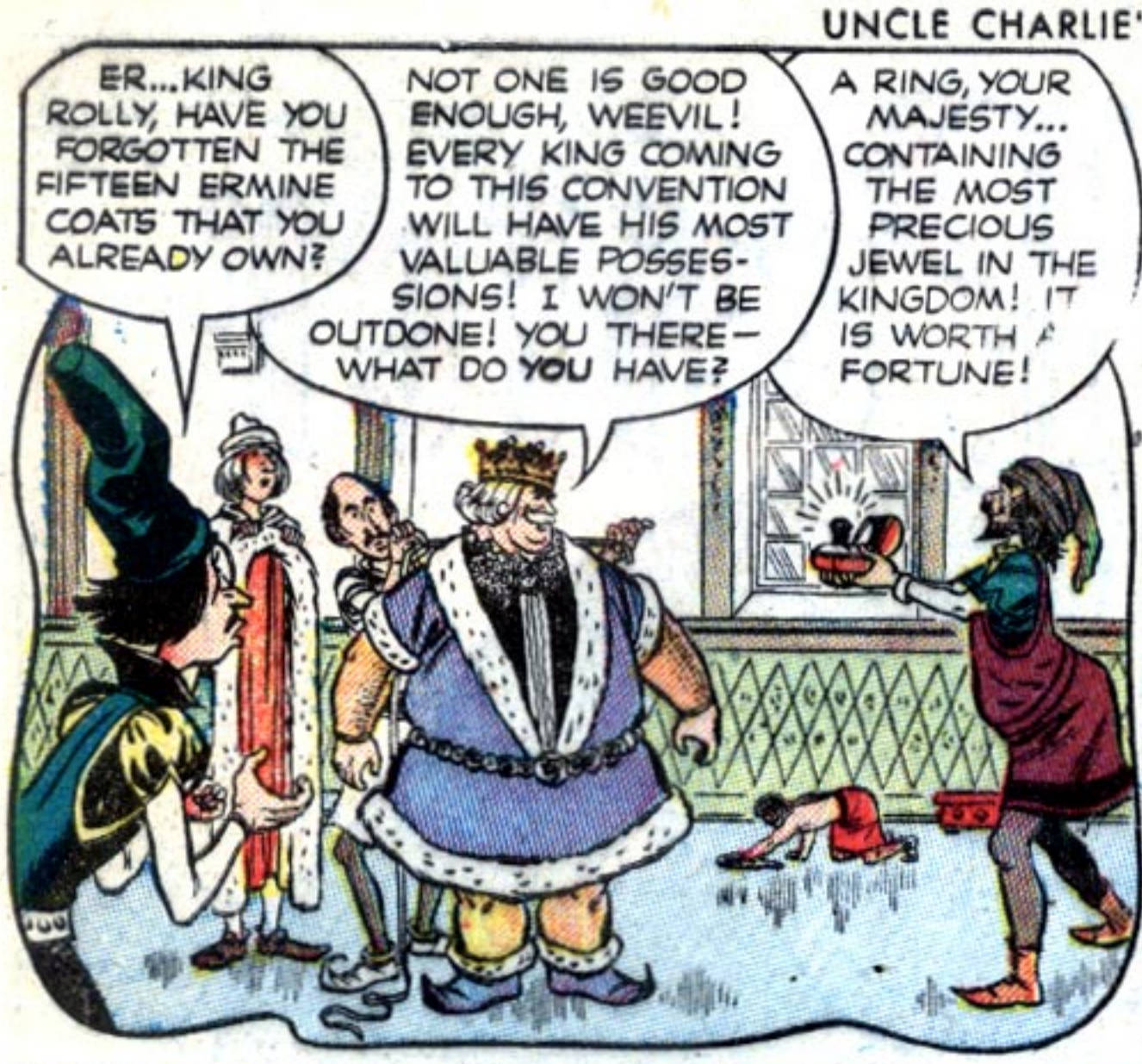
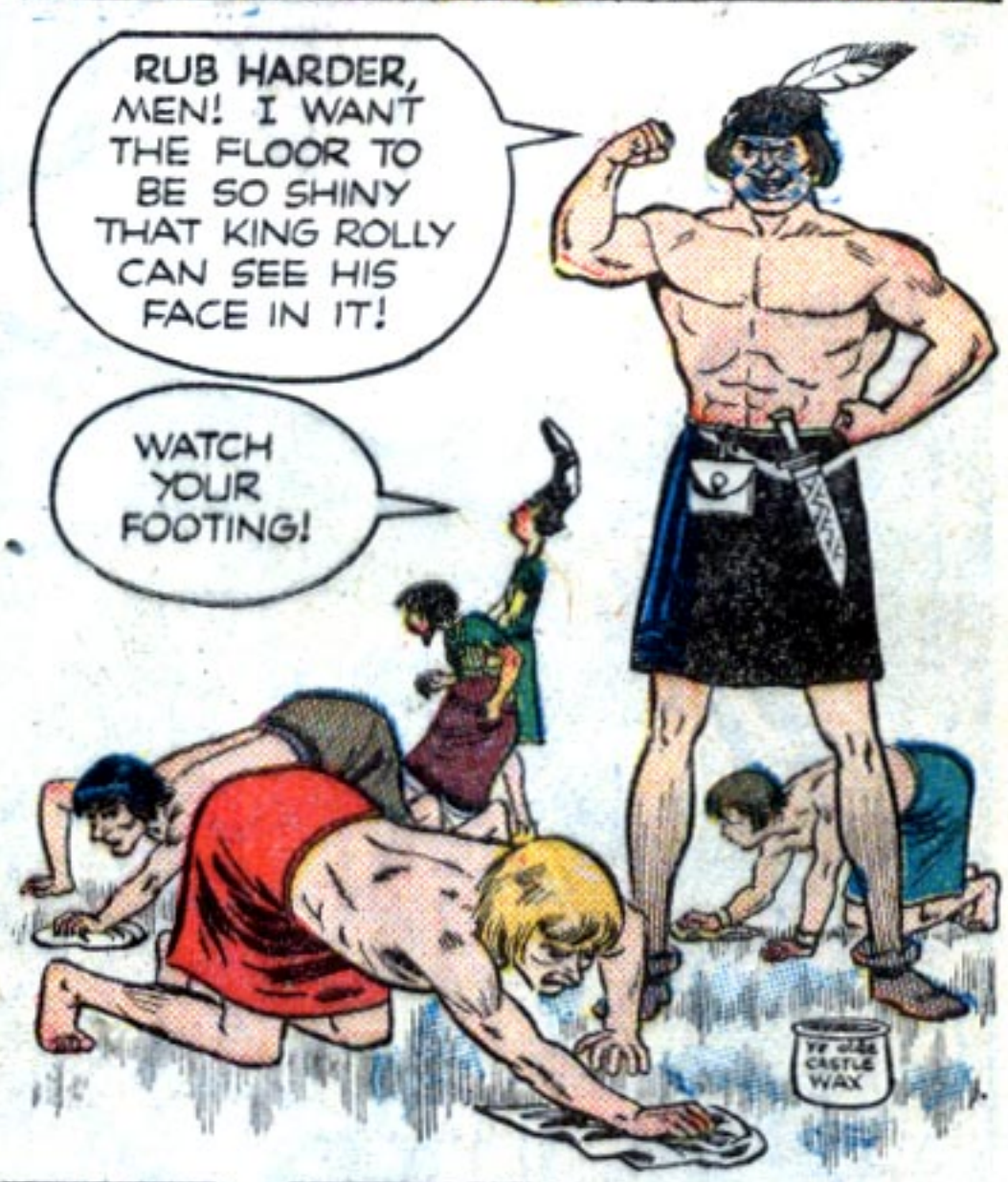
Do not be frightened. This is not a real dragon. It is man-made. Inside it are hundreds of enemies of King Rolly's small country, Gladiola. It would be easy for King Rolly and his soldiers to know this if they weren't blinded by panic and superstitions. It took the courage of our young baker boy, Peter Pester, to expose the most dangerous trick ever played on his peaceful kingdom.

(UNCLE) CHARLIE BIRO


ER...KING ROLLY, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE FIFTEEN ERMINE COATS THAT YOU ALREADY OWN?
NOT ONE IS GOOD ENOUGH, WEEVIL! EVERY KING COMING TO THIS CONVENTION WILL HAVE HIS MOST VALUABLE POSSESSIONS! I WON'T BE OUTDONE! YOU THERE— WHAT DO YOU HAVE?
A RING, YOUR MAJESTY... CONTAINING THE MOST PRECIOUS JEWEL IN THE KINGDOM! IT IS WORTH A FORTUNE!

YOU NEED NOT PAY ME ALL AT ONCE, YOUR HIGHNESS! PERHAPS FIFTY THOUSAND GOLD PIECES AS A DOWN PAYMENT, AND...
HOW DARE YOU! ER... WEEVIL, HOW MUCH DO WE HAVE IN THE TREASURY?
WE HAD BEST PAY AS HE SUGGESTS, KING ROLLY!

AS YOU SAY, WEEVIL!
THANK YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS AND GOOD DAY... WHOOPS!!


RUB HARDER, MEN! I WANT THE FLOOR TO BE SO SHINY THAT KING ROLLY CAN SEE HIS FACE IN IT!
WATCH YOUR FOOTING!

WILL IT NEVER STOP RAINING?
THIS ICING ISN'T DRY, PESTER! YOU KNOW THAT THE KING IS COUNTING ON THIS CAKE TO BE HIS PRIZE POSSESSION TOMORROW?
OH, THE CAKE WILL BE READY, MR. WEEVIL, BUT WHAT WORRIES ME IS THAT RAIN! THAT DAM WILL BREAK IF IT RAINS MUCH LONGER!
Property of Gladiola Royal Bakery

EVERYONE WILL BE THERE. ALL OF THE KINGS IN THE WORLD WILL BE THERE. PERHAPS THEIR SONS WILL BE THERE. MAYBE A PRINCE FOR YOU WILL BE THERE, GINGER PEACHY.
I DO NOT WANT A PRINCE, YAK-YAKETY! I JUST WANT PETER PESTER!
AND... PETER... LONGS FOR THE PRINCESS DENISE! 'TIS A MITE MIXY!

The day of the convention arrives...

WELCOME, KINGS! MAY ALL THE LUXURIES OF MY KINGDOM PLEASE YOU!

ANNOUNCING HIS MAJESTY, **FALCON DU PRES,** KING OF **UPROARIA!**

SEE THAT OILY LEER! FALCON DU PRES WILL SMILE AND SMILE— YET HE WOULD AS SOON HAVE YOUR HEAD!

LONG HAVE I YEARNED FOR THE PRINCESS DENISE, AND BY JUPITER, THIS TIME I WILL MAKE HER MINE!

ALL THE GIFTS YOU, MY NEIGHBORING MONARCHS, HAVE BROUGHT ARE DELIGHTFUL TO BEHOLD! THANK YOU! AND NOW I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU!

THE FAT FOOL WILL NOT GRIN WHEN I AM THROUGH WITH HIM!

HURRY! THE KINGS ARE WAITING!

OUR CAKE IS TOO HEAVY TO CARRY! SLIDE THIS BENEATH IT AND WE CAN WHEEL IT IN!

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL CAKE! MY MOUTH WATERS FOR A SLICE!

AH, THERE, GRIZZIG, DID YOU HIRE THE YOUNG MAN WHO BAKED THAT CAKE?

NO, **PETER PESTER** REFUSED! BUT YOU TOLD ME TO DISCOVER WHAT I COULD ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF GLADIOLA AND I CAN REPORT THAT THEY ARE ALL SUPERSTITIOUS FOOLS! THEY BELIEVE IN DEMONS AND DRAGONS!

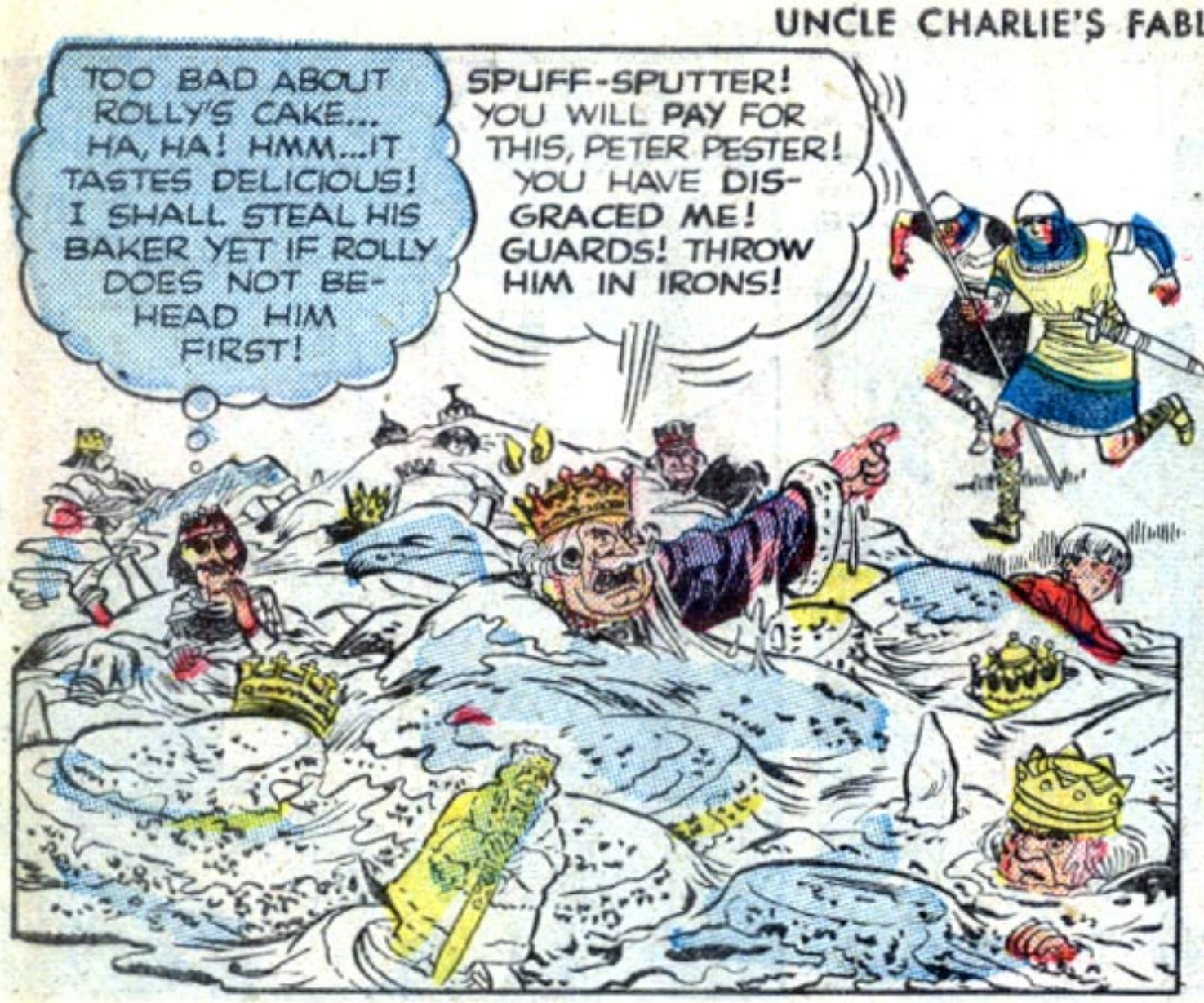
IT IS TRULY A GORGEOUS CAKE, PETER!

AW, 'TIS NOTHING, PRINCESS DENISE!

COME, PETER PESTER—'TIS READY TO ROLL!

NOT SO FAST! THIS FLOOR IS LIKE ICE... **WHOOPS!!**

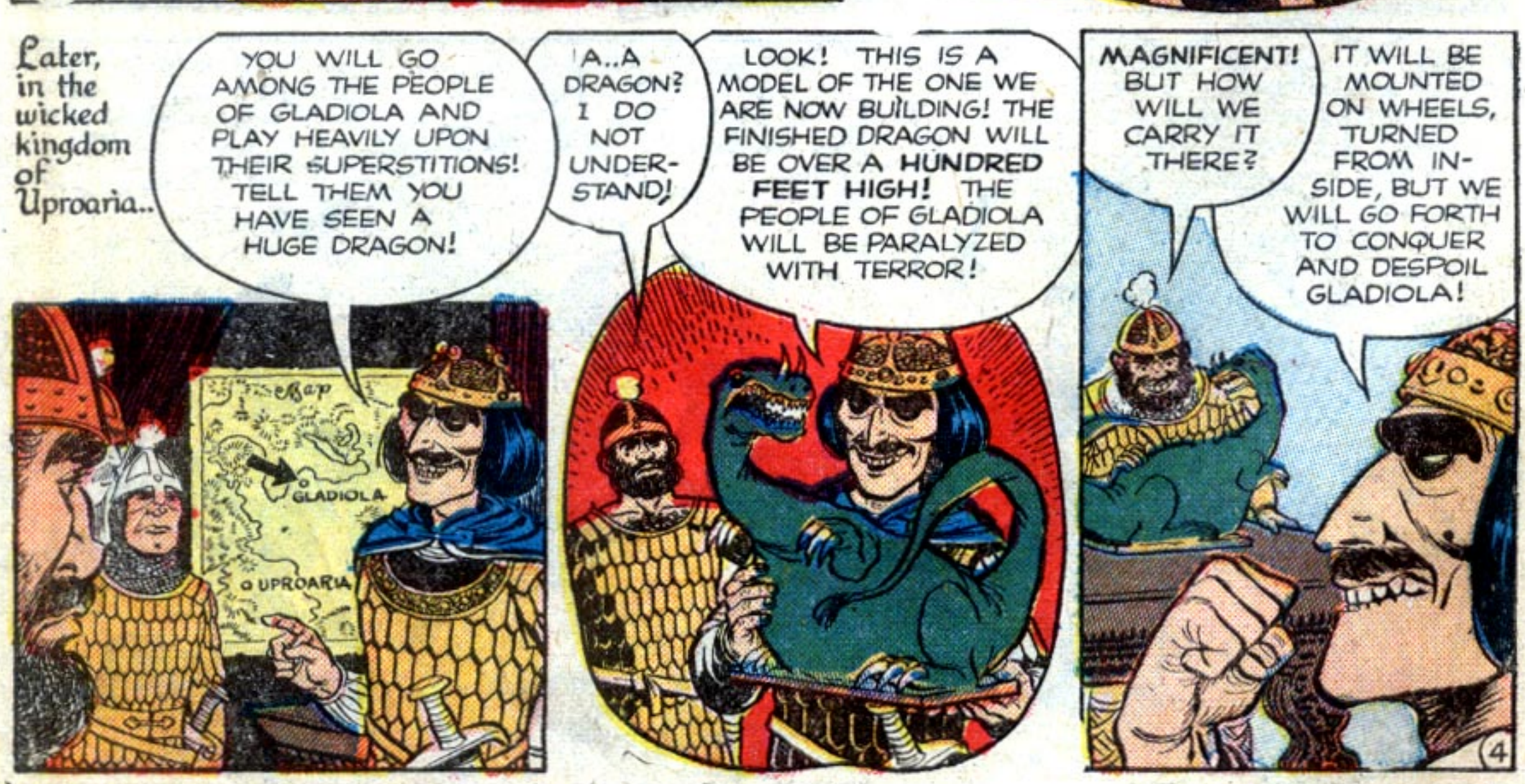
W...WATCH OUT! MY CAKE! **MY CAKE!**


TOO BAD ABOUT ROLLY'S CAKE... HA, HA! HMM...IT TASTES DELICIOUS! I SHALL STEAL HIS BAKER YET IF ROLLY DOES NOT BE-HEAD HIM FIRST!
SPUFF-SPUTTER! YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS, PETER PESTER! YOU HAVE DIS-GRACED ME! GUARDS! THROW HIM IN IRONS!

WE ARE FRIENDS OF PETER PESTER. WE WORRIED THAT HE WOULD BE HUNGRY. WE DECIDED TO PREPARE SOME FOOD FOR HIM. WE BAKED HIM A CAKE. WE WISH PERMISSION TO SEE HIM. WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE IT TO HIM.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! GIVE HIM THE CAKE AND STOP TALKING!

WE HAVE BROUGHT YOU A CAKE. IT IS A GOOD CAKE. IT IS CHOCOLATE AND PEPPER-MINT AND COCONUT. IT HAS ALMOND IN-SIDE. IT HAS WALNUTS IN THE FROSTING. IT HAS MARSHMALLOWS...
TAKE IT AWAY, POKEY SLOW! I NEVER WANT TO SEE ANOTHER CAKE!
PSST...YAK DID NOT MEN-TION IT, PETER, BUT THERE IS A FILE IN IT!

YOU...MUST... ESCAPE, PETER! THE KING...HAS PROMISED...TO EITHER BEHEAD YOU...OR BANISH YOU-FROM...THE KINGDOM...
YES, YOU MUST HIDE! KING ROLLY IS TERRIBLY ANGRY!
TIME'S UP! YOU CHILDREN MUST LEAVE!


Later, in the wicked kingdom of Uproaria...
YOU WILL GO AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GLADIOLA AND PLAY HEAVILY UPON THEIR SUPERSTITIONS! TELL THEM YOU HAVE SEEN A HUGE DRAGON!
A..A DRAGON? I DO NOT UNDER-STAND!
LOOK! THIS IS A MODEL OF THE ONE WE ARE NOW BUILDING! THE FINISHED DRAGON WILL BE OVER A HUNDRED FEET HIGH! THE PEOPLE OF GLADIOLA WILL BE PARALYZED WITH TERROR!
MAGNIFICENT! BUT HOW WILL WE CARRY IT THERE?
IT WILL BE MOUNTED ON WHEELS, TURNED FROM IN-SIDE, BUT WE WILL GO FORTH TO CONQUER AND DESPOIL GLADIOLA!
GLADIOLA
UPROARIA

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH MY PEOPLE, WEEVIL? THEY LOOK AS IF DEMONS ARE AFTER THEM!
THEY SAY THEY HAVE SEEN A FEROCIOUS DRAGON APPROACHING GLADIOLA!
DRAGON? NONSENSE! BRING ME A MAN WHO HAS SEEN THAT DRAGON!

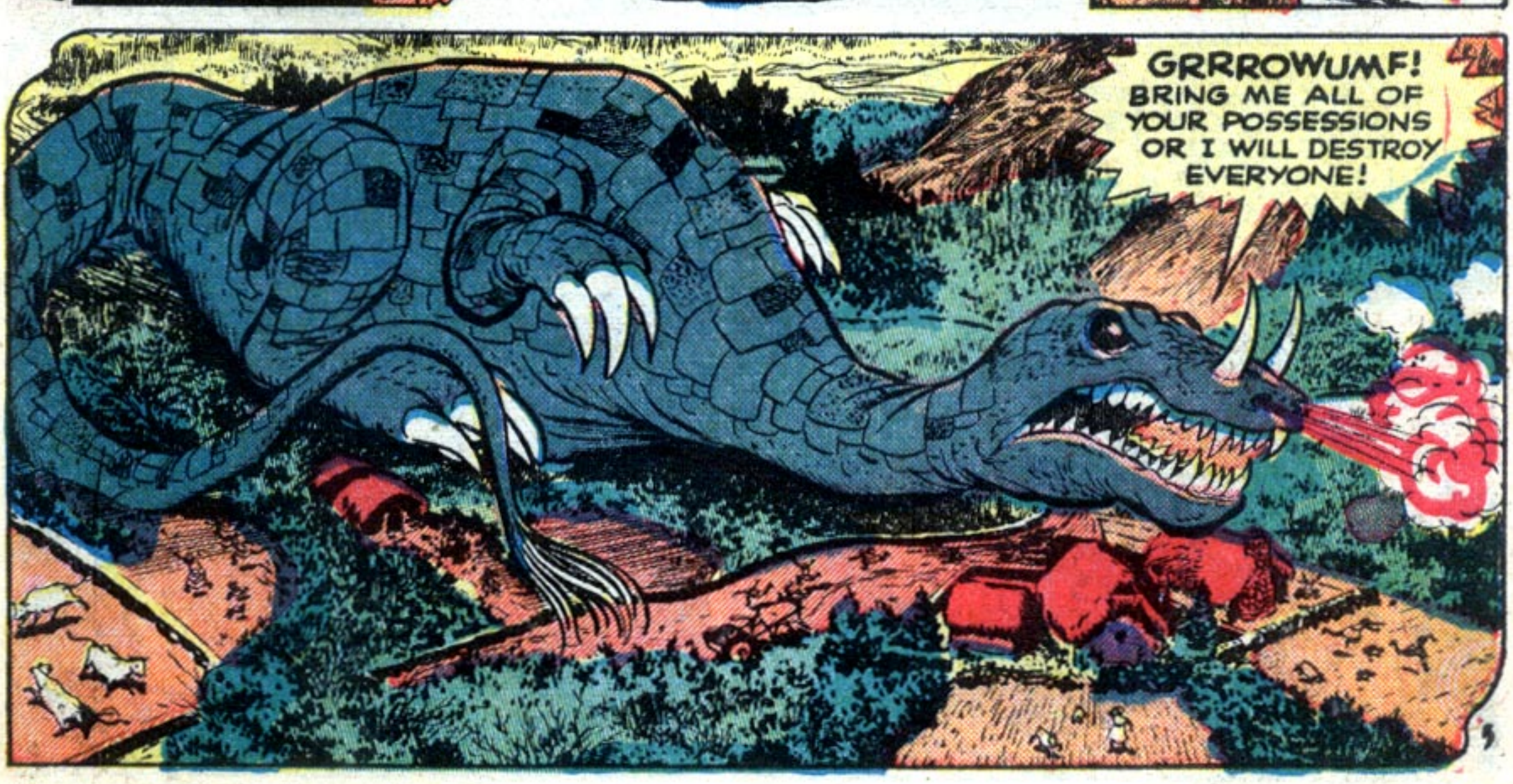
Meanwhile...
THE LAST ONE! NOW I CAN FIND OUT WHY EVERY-ONE IS SO FRIGHTENED!

IF I CAN JUST LOOK INTO THE THRONE ROOM, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEARN SOMETHING!

THIS MAN HAS SEEN THE DRAGON, YOUR HIGH-NESS!
IT IS TRUE, OH MIGHTY KING! I HAVE SEEN IT, AND A MOST FEARFUL BEAST IT IS, BREATHING FIRE AND BELLOW-ING IN A MIGHTY VOICE!
THAT IS THE SAME MAN WHO ASKED ME TO WORK FOR FALCON DU PRES! THIS IS STRANGE, INDEED!

FETCH MY ROYAL STEED! WE SHALL RIDE TO THE DAM! FROM THERE WE CAN LOOK DOWN UPON THE LOWLANDS AND YOUR SO-CALLED "DRAGON" IF IT EXISTS!
ER, UH... TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE, PER-HAPS WE SHOULD TAKE ALONG ALL OF MY BRAVEST KNIGHTS!

GREAT GROWLING GRYPHONS! HE DID NOT LIE—IT IS...IT IS A DRAGON!


GRRROWUMF! BRING ME ALL OF YOUR POSSESSIONS OR I WILL DESTROY EVERYONE!

YOU THERE! YOU WEAK, SNIVELING COWARD! BRING ME YOUR SHEEP! I AM HUNGRY!
HA! HA! THIS IS SUCCESSFUL BEYOND MY WILDEST DREAMS! THE SUPERSTITIOUS FOOLS WILL GIVE US EVERYTHING THEY OWN!

HURRY, DONALD! WE MUST BRING HIM WHAT HE WANTS LEST WE PROVOKE HIS WRATH!

WE MUST STOP THE VICIOUS BEAST BEFORE HE STRIPS US OF ALL OUR WEALTH! ORDER THE SOLDIERS TO ATTACK HIM! STRIKE TO KILL!
IT IS NO USE, YOUR HIGHNESS! THEY ARE TOO TERRIFIED TO MOVE!

AT LEAST YOU ARE SAFE FOR NOW, PETER! KING ROLLY HAS FORGOTTEN YOU BECAUSE OF THE DRAGON!
I HAVE HEARD PEOPLE TELL OF THE DRAGON'S SIZE. I HAVE HEARD HOW HE SCREAMS. THEY HAVE SEEN HIM EAT MANY COWS AND SHEEP. HE IS TERRIBLE. HE WILL EAT US ALL.
I HAVE NEVER BELIEVED IN DRAGONS! THERE IS SOMETHING VERY PECULIAR ABOUT THIS AND I INTEND TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!

SINCE WE CANNOT DEFEAT THE DRAGON, YOUR MAJESTY, WHY NOT TRY TO REASON WITH IT? A TREATY OF SOME SORT, PERHAPS...
AH, ME, WEEVIL...I SUPPOSE YOU ARE RIGHT!
YOU THERE! I WISH TO SPEAK TO YOU, MISTER ER...UH... DRAGON!

KING ROLLY IS CALLING TO US, YOUR HIGHNESS! HE WANTS TO KNOW HOW HE CAN MAKE PEACE WITH THE DRAGON!
I WAS EXPECTING THIS! TELL HIM TO BRING ONE HUNDRED MILLION GOLD PIECES, FIVE HUNDRED BARRELS OF PRECIOUS JEWELS AND, LAST BUT NOT LEAST, I MUST HAVE THE PRINCESS DENISE!

THIS IS THE MOST DIFFICULT THING I HAVE EVER HAD TO DO, DENISE, BUT I MUST THINK FIRST OF MY PEOPLE! TO SAVE THEM YOU MUST GIVE YOURSELF TO THE DRAGON!
I WILL NOT, UNCLE ROLLY! I REFUSE! THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER WAY TO SATISFY THE DRAGON! WHY SHOULD IT WANT ME?

I OFFERED TO GO INSTEAD, BUT IT IS YOU THAT IT WANTS! AT LEAST YOU WILL KNOW YOU ARE SAVING YOUR COUNTRY!
I HOPE YOU ARE RIGHT, UNCLE ROLLY! I SHALL DO AS YOU SAY!

TAKE HIS MAJESTY TO THE DRAGON!
THE DRAGON? WHY IS THE KING TAKING PRINCESS DENISE TO THE DRAGON? ANSWER ME!
THE DRAGON HAS THREATENED TO LAY WASTE TO THE COUNTRY AND DEVOUR ALL THE PEOPLE UNLESS IT IS GIVEN THE PRINCESS!

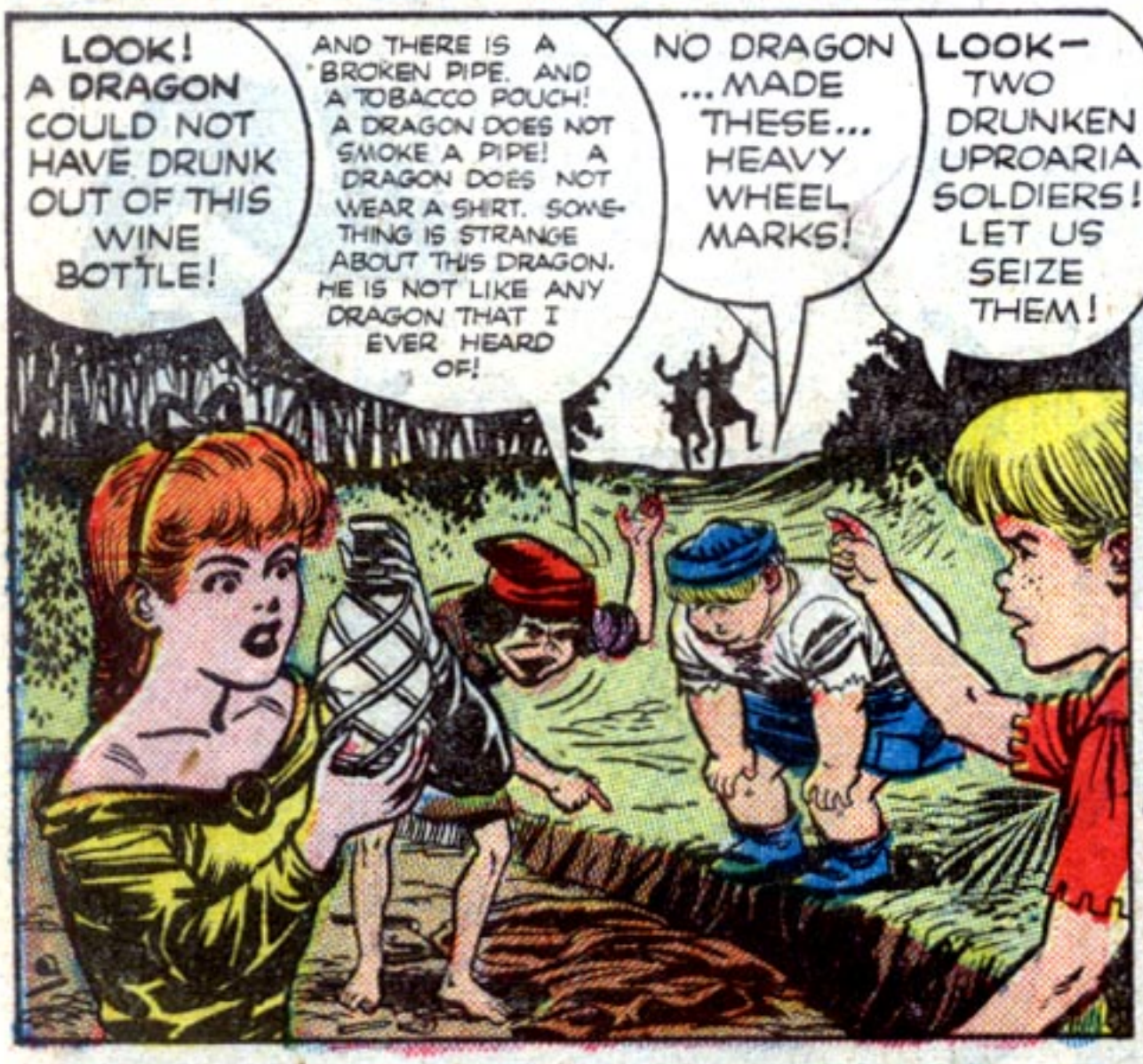
SHE HAS FAINTED, YOUR MAJESTY!
POOR CHILD.. IT IS BETTER THIS WAY! SHE WILL NEVER KNOW WHEN IT HAPPENS! ALL RIGHT, GUARD! TAKE HER TO THE DRAGON!

WHAT HAS HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?
WELCOME TO MY DRAGON, PRINCESS DENISE! WE ARE LEAVING IMMEDIATELY FOR MY KINGDOM OF UPROARIA! YOU'LL BE MY QUEEN!

YOU ARROGANT FIEND! I WOULD RATHER BE A WORM THAN BE YOUR QUEEN!
HA, HA, HA, HA! MAKE READY TO RETURN TO UPROARIA! WE HAVE STRIPPED GLADIOLA AND NEED NOT RETURN UNTIL SHE HAS ACCUMULATED MORE WEALTH!

GO HOME, CHILDREN, AS EVERYONE ELSE IS DOING! YOU CAN GAIN NOTHING BY FOLLOWING THE DRAGON!
NO, WE MUST FIND THE DRAGON AND LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT IT!

FALCON DU PRES WOULD KILL YOU IF HE SAW YOU OPEN THAT DOOR!
WHO CARES 'BOUT DU PRES, ANYWAY? 'SIDES, HE IS WITH THAT PRINCESS! HE WON'T SEE US! COME ON, LET US STEP OUTSIDE FOR A LI'L AIR!

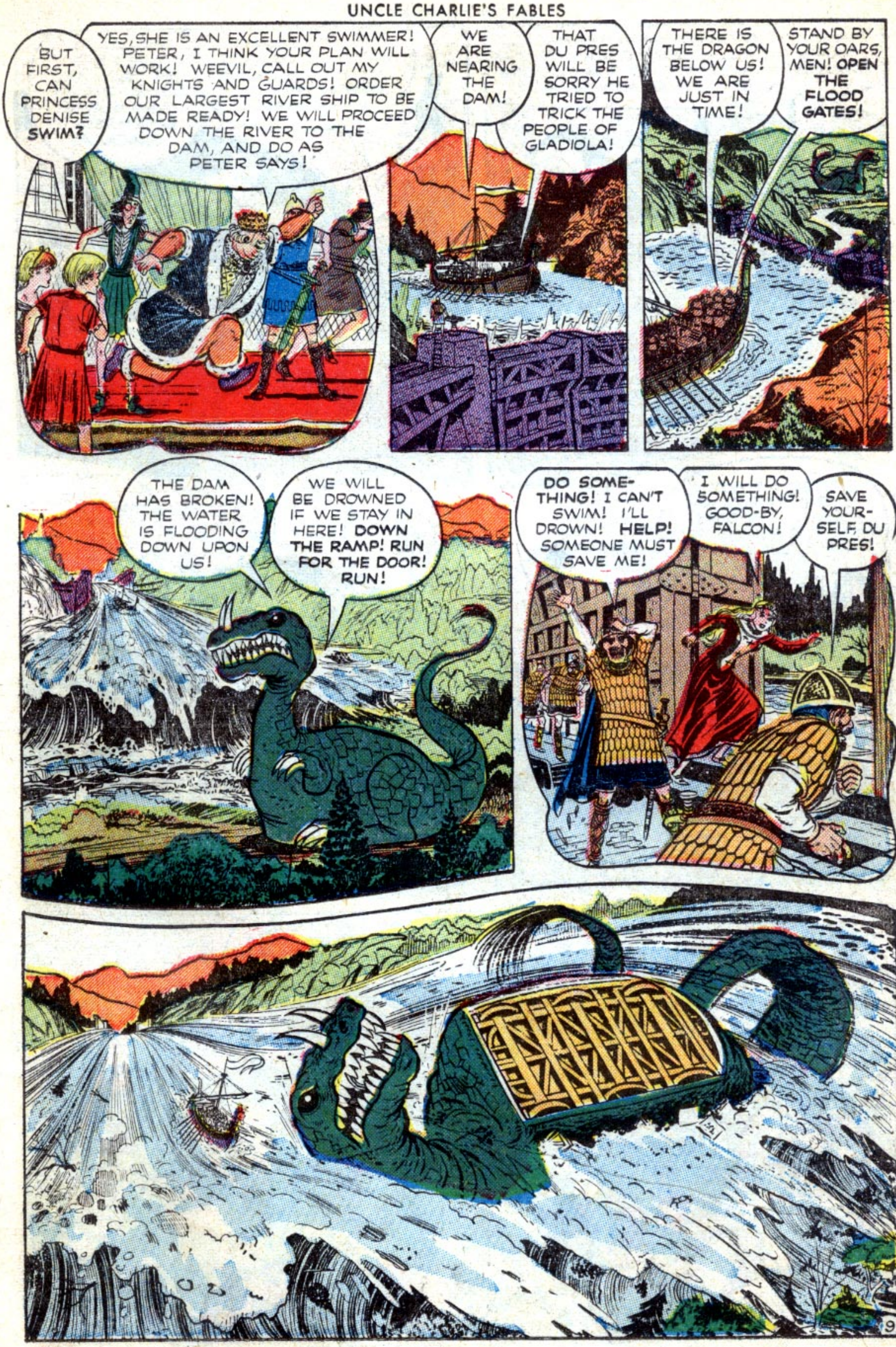

LOOK! A DRAGON COULD NOT HAVE DRUNK OUT OF THIS WINE BOTTLE!
AND THERE IS A BROKEN PIPE. AND A TOBACCO POUCH! A DRAGON DOES NOT SMOKE A PIPE! A DRAGON DOES NOT WEAR A SHIRT. SOMETHING IS STRANGE ABOUT THIS DRAGON. HE IS NOT LIKE ANY DRAGON THAT I EVER HEARD OF!
NO DRAGON ...MADE THESE... HEAVY WHEEL MARKS!
LOOK— TWO DRUNKEN UPROARIA SOLDIERS! LET US SEIZE THEM!

WE KNOW YOU ARE DU PRES' MEN! TELL US ABOUT THE DRAGON OR I'LL RUN YOU THROUGH!
DO NOT KILL ME! I WILL TELL! DRAGON'SH ALL A HOAX! 'S NO DRAGON AT ALL...JUSHA BIG FRAME WITH WHEELS! NOTHIN' T'BE 'FRAID OF! THAT ISH THE TRUTH!

WHAT? PETER PESTER! I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN THE DUNGEON!
KING ROLLY— THE DRAGON IS A FRAUD— MADE OF WOOD AND HIDES BY FALCON DU PRES! HE IS TAKING THE PRINCESS AND ALL THE WEALTH OF GLADIOLA BACK TO UPROARIA! WE MUST STOP HIM!

OF COURSE WE MUST, BOY...BUT HOW?
WELL, I HAVE A PLAN!

IT HAS RAINED FOR MANY WEEKS. THE RIVER IS VERY HIGH. THE WATER PRESSES AGAINST THE DAM. THE DAM IS BARELY HOLDING BACK THE WATER. THE DRAGON MUST CROSS THE PLAINS TO GET BACK TO UPROARIA. THE DRAGON CANNOT SWIM. THE DRAGON...
YAK MEANS WE CAN STOP THE DRAGON BY OPENING THE DAM!


BUT FIRST, CAN PRINCESS DENISE SWIM?
YES, SHE IS AN EXCELLENT SWIMMER! PETER, I THINK YOUR PLAN WILL WORK! WEEVIL, CALL OUT MY KNIGHTS AND GUARDS! ORDER OUR LARGEST RIVER SHIP TO BE MADE READY! WE WILL PROCEED DOWN THE RIVER TO THE DAM, AND DO AS PETER SAYS!
WE ARE NEARING THE DAM!
THAT DU PRES WILL BE SORRY HE TRIED TO TRICK THE PEOPLE OF GLADIOLA!
THERE IS THE DRAGON BELOW US! WE ARE JUST IN TIME!
STAND BY YOUR OARS, MEN! OPEN THE FLOOD GATES!
THE DAM HAS BROKEN! THE WATER IS FLOODING DOWN UPON US!
WE WILL BE DROWNED IF WE STAY IN HERE! DOWN THE RAMP! RUN FOR THE DOOR! RUN!
DO SOMETHING! I CAN'T SWIM! I'LL DROWN! HELP! SOMEONE MUST SAVE ME!
I WILL DO SOMETHING! GOOD-BY, FALCON!
SAVE YOURSELF, DU PRES!

GRAB MY HAND, PRINCESS!
BE READY, MEN! THE WATER WILL SUBSIDE QUICKLY AND WE MUST NOT LET A SINGLE ONE OF DU PRES' MEN ESCAPE!

WHAT A CLUMSY SWIMMER DU PRES IS! HE WAS GOING **DOWN** INSTEAD OF FORWARD!
HA, HA! SO THESE ARE THE BRAVE AND CLEVER THIEVES WHO ALMOST LAID WASTE TO GLADIOLA!

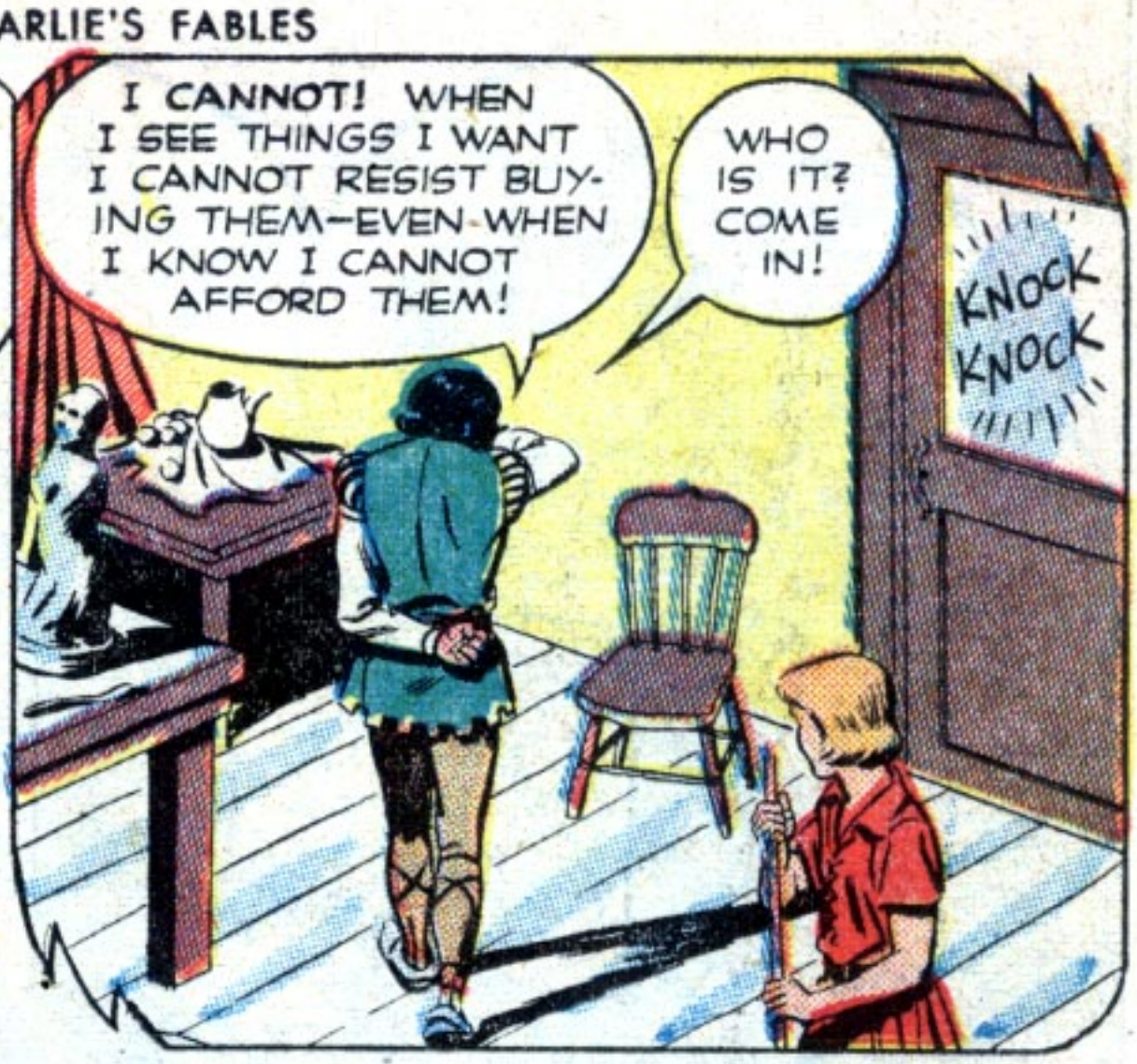
PETER, MY BOY, YOUR STRATEGY WAS SOUND! I FORGIVE YOU FOR RUINING MY KINGS' CONVENTION!
THANK YOU, KING ROLLY!
GET ALONG WITH YOU!
MORE LIVELY THERE!

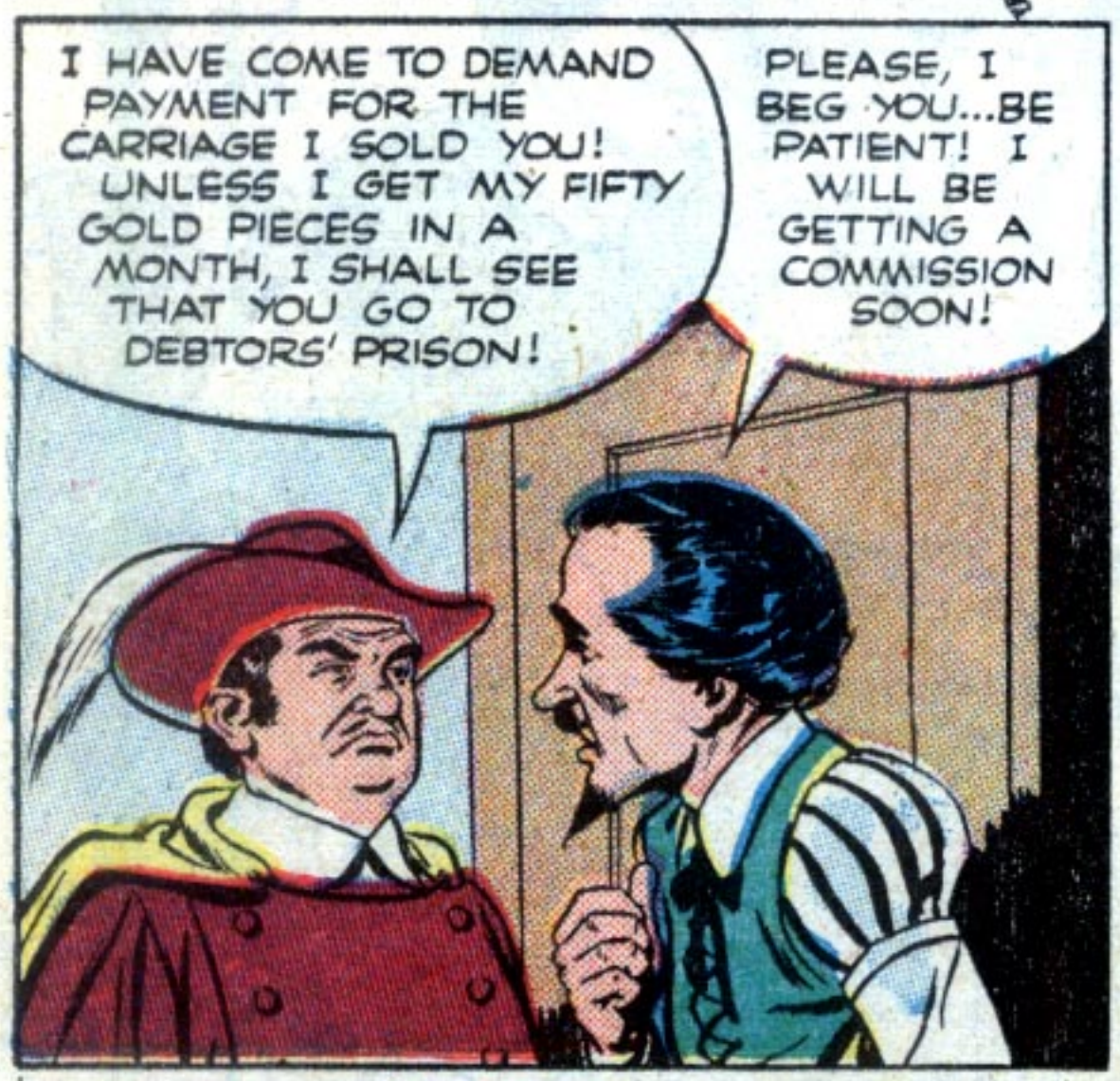
PETER IS THE HERO! I FEAR THAT GRATITUDE WILL AGAIN CAUSE KING ROLLY TO OFFER PETER THE HAND OF THE PRINCESS DENISE!
THE KING IS VERY GRATEFUL. THE KING IS A GENEROUS MAN. HE WILL OFFER PETER MANY RICHES. HE MAY OFFER PETER THE HAND OF THE PRINCESS. PETER WISHES TO EARN WHAT HE RECEIVES. PETER WILL NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANYONE. PETER WILL NOT...
YAK YAKETY IS TRYING TO SAY... THAT HE THINKS PETER... WILL REFUSE AND.. I AGREE!

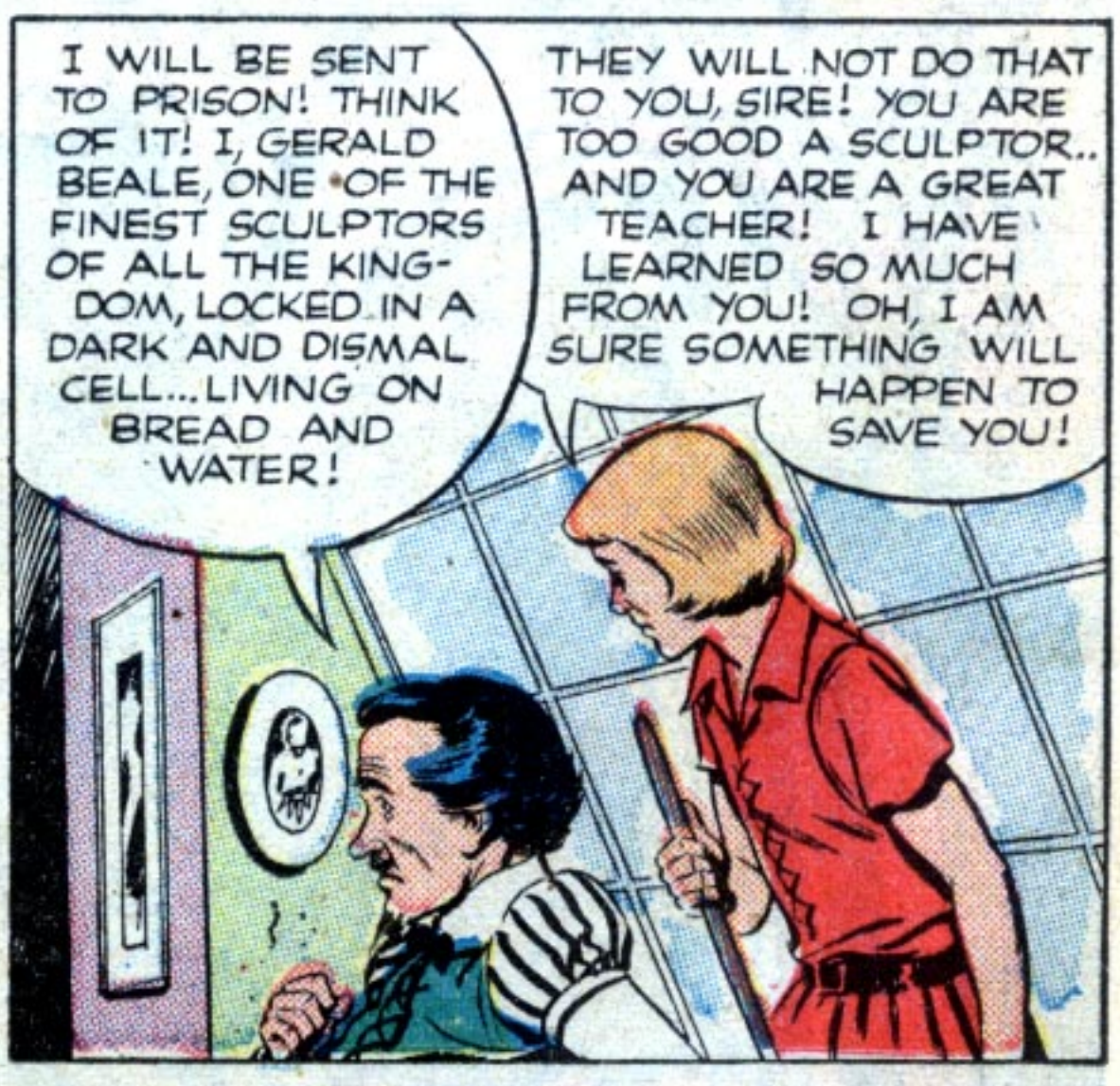
I AM VERY PROUD OF YOU, PETER, AND I AM EXTREMELY FOND OF DENISE! I KNOW I HAVE SPOKEN OF THIS BEFORE, BUT I WOULD LIKE IT VERY MUCH IF YOU TWO BECAME BETROTHED!
THANK YOU, KING ROLLY, BUT AGAIN I MUST REFUSE! NO PERSON SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANOTHER!
MY UNCLE SEEMS TO HAVE A **HABIT** OF GIVING ME AWAY— EVEN TO **DRAGONS!**
the END

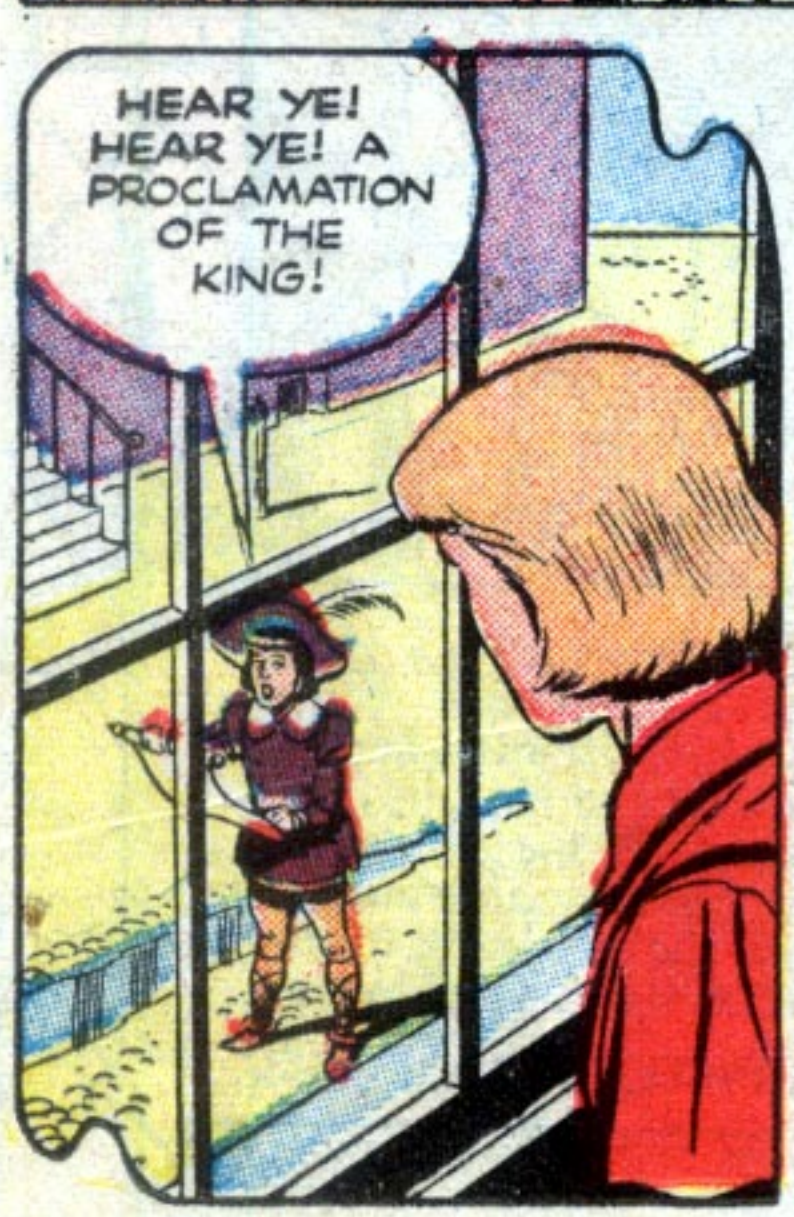
THIS IS THE PIECE THAT RESEMBLES ME MOST! TO KEEP MY WORD, I MUST AWARD IT THE FIRST PRIZE! IT IS PERFECT TO THE LAST EYELASH BUT FOR SOME REASON I DO NOT LIKE IT!
I DO NOT KNOW, YOUR MAJESTY! I SENSE WHAT YOU FEEL, AND YET IT IS A PERFECT LIKENESS!
I HAVE WON! THE GOLD IS MINE!
the Sculptor's Apprentice
Once upon a time there lived a great but foolish sculptor. He was burdened with debt and lived in great misery. It took his young and humble apprentice to teach the sculptor, quite by chance, the folly of his ways.
(UNCLE) CHARLIE BIRO

WOULD THAT I MIGHT NEVER SEE ANOTHER BILL! I HAVE COME TO DREAD THE POSTMAN—BILLS! BILLS! BILLS!
BUT WHY DO YOU BUY THINGS YOU CANNOT AFFORD? THE NEW SUITS, THE FANCY FROCK COATS AND THAT HANDSOME CARRIAGE! YOU COULD GET ALONG ON LESS!


I CANNOT! WHEN I SEE THINGS I WANT I CANNOT RESIST BUYING THEM—EVEN WHEN I KNOW I CANNOT AFFORD THEM!
WHO IS IT? COME IN!
KNOCK KNOCK

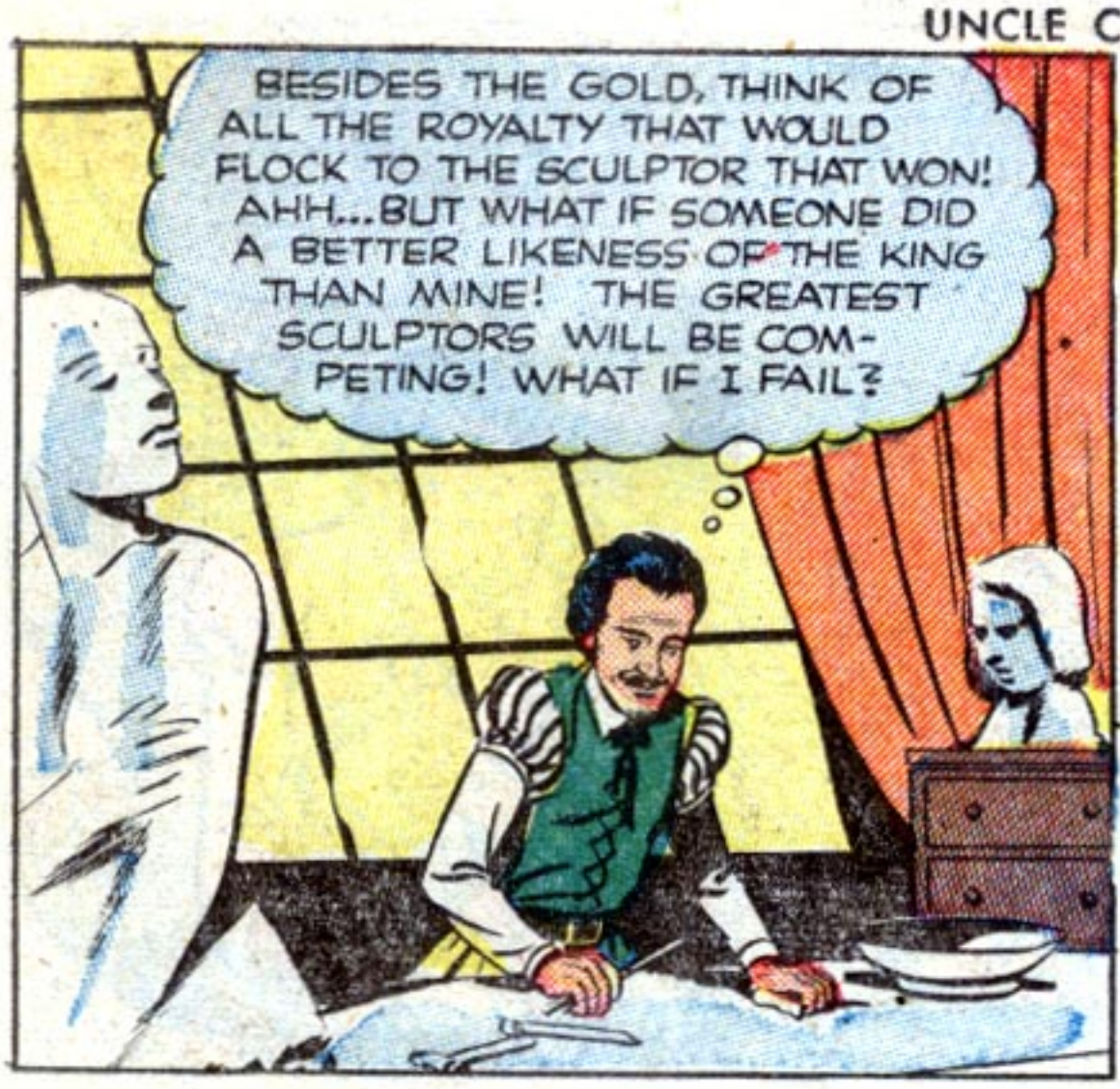

I HAVE COME TO DEMAND PAYMENT FOR THE CARRIAGE I SOLD YOU! UNLESS I GET MY FIFTY GOLD PIECES IN A MONTH, I SHALL SEE THAT YOU GO TO DEBTORS' PRISON!
PLEASE, I BEG YOU...BE PATIENT! I WILL BE GETTING A COMMISSION SOON!


I WILL BE SENT TO PRISON! THINK OF IT! I, GERALD BEALE, ONE OF THE FINEST SCULPTORS OF ALL THE KINGDOM, LOCKED IN A DARK AND DISMAL CELL...LIVING ON BREAD AND WATER!
THEY WILL NOT DO THAT TO YOU, SIRE! YOU ARE TOO GOOD A SCULPTOR.. AND YOU ARE A GREAT TEACHER! I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH FROM YOU! OH, I AM SURE SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN TO SAVE YOU!


HEAR YE! HEAR YE! A PROCLAMATION OF THE KING!

IN THE NAME OF KING CHRISTOPHER, I ANNOUNCE A GREAT CONTEST OPEN TO ALL OF THE SCULPTORS OF THE KINGDOM! THE SCULPTOR WHO MAKES THE MOST LIFELIKE BUST OF THE KING WILL BE AWARDED A BAG OF GOLD!

IT IS THE MIRACLE I NEED TO SAVE ME! MAKE HASTE! GO DOWN AND LEARN THE DETAILS OF THE CONTEST! A BAG OF GOLD! THINK OF IT! I WILL BE RICH!


BESIDES THE GOLD, THINK OF ALL THE ROYALTY THAT WOULD FLOCK TO THE SCULPTOR THAT WON! AHH...BUT WHAT IF SOMEONE DID A BETTER LIKENESS OF THE KING THAN MINE! THE GREATEST SCULPTORS WILL BE COMPETING! WHAT IF I FAIL?

I CANNOT RISK FAILURE! I MUST WIN! I KNOW A WAY—A PERFECT WAY TO GET A LIKENESS SO ACCURATE THAT I AM CERTAIN TO WIN!

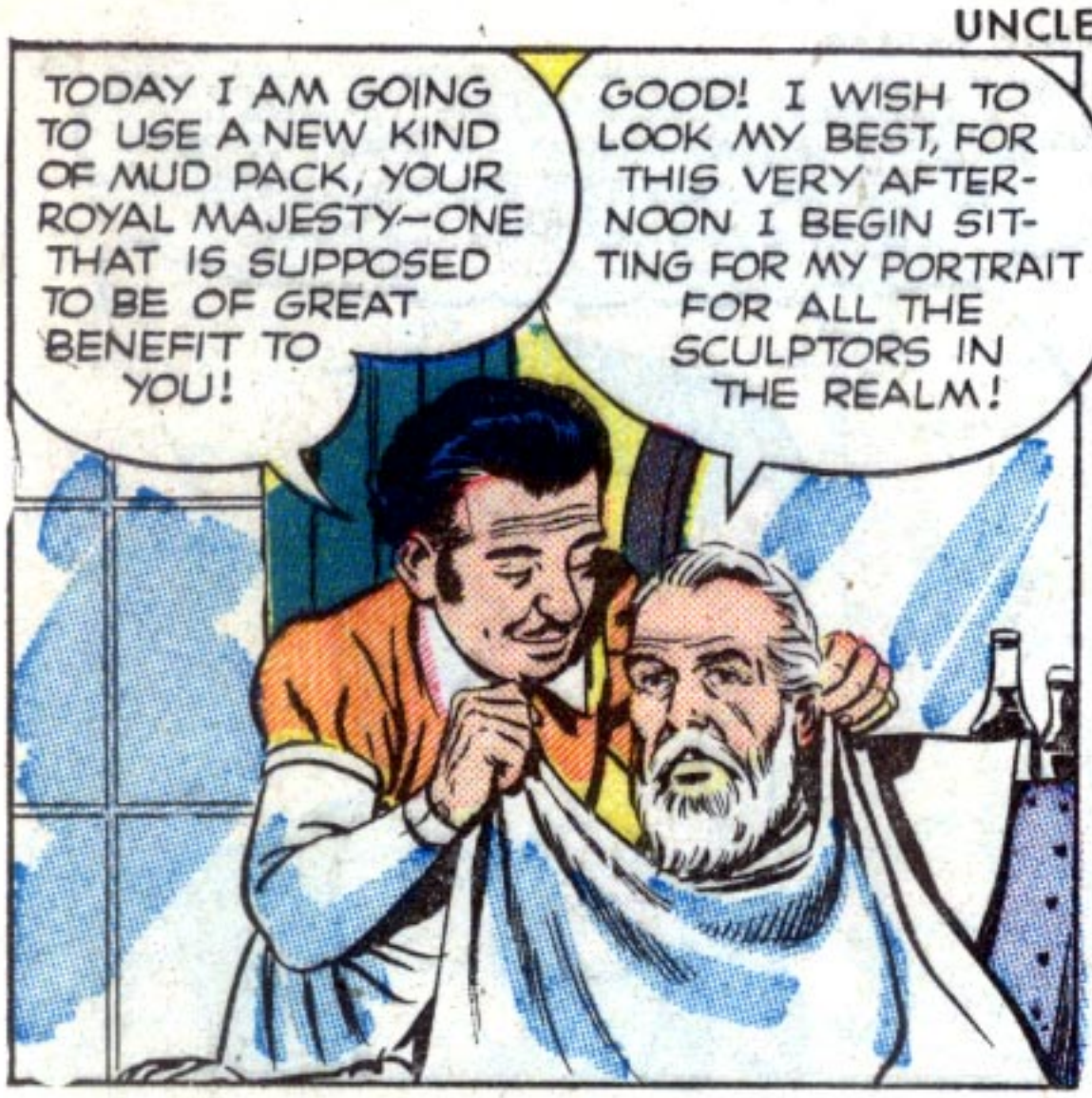
MARCEL, YOU ARE THE ROYAL BARBER TO THE KING! THOUGH IT IS A GREAT HONOR, YOU ARE NOT SO WELL PAID THAT YOU WOULD TURN AWAY A CHANCE TO GET A HALF A BAG OF GOLD, ARE YOU?
A HALF A BAG OF GOLD!

ALL I ASK IS THAT WHEN YOU GIVE THE KING HIS MUD PACK THAT YOU USE THIS SPECIAL CLAY I HAVE HERE! OIL HIS FACE BEFORE YOU PUT IT ON! REMOVE IT IN ONE PIECE AND GIVE IT TO ME!
OH, WHAT IF THE KING SHOULD FIND OUT?

HOW WOULD HE FIND OUT? DO AS I ASK AND IF I WIN THE CONTEST FOR THE MOST PERFECT LIKENESS, I WILL SHARE MY PRIZE WITH YOU!
A HALF A BAG OF GOLD! I WILL DO IT! THE KING WILL BE HERE TOMORROW!

THE KING'S FIRST SITTING WILL BE TOMORROW AFTERNOON IN THE GREAT HALL OF THE PALACE! HOW I ENVY YOU—BEING ABLE TO WORK IN THE PALACE!
I SHALL LET YOU GO IN MY PLACE! I FEEL THAT I KNOW THE KING SO WELL THAT I CAN DO A BETTER LIKENESS WORKING HERE AT MY STUDIO!

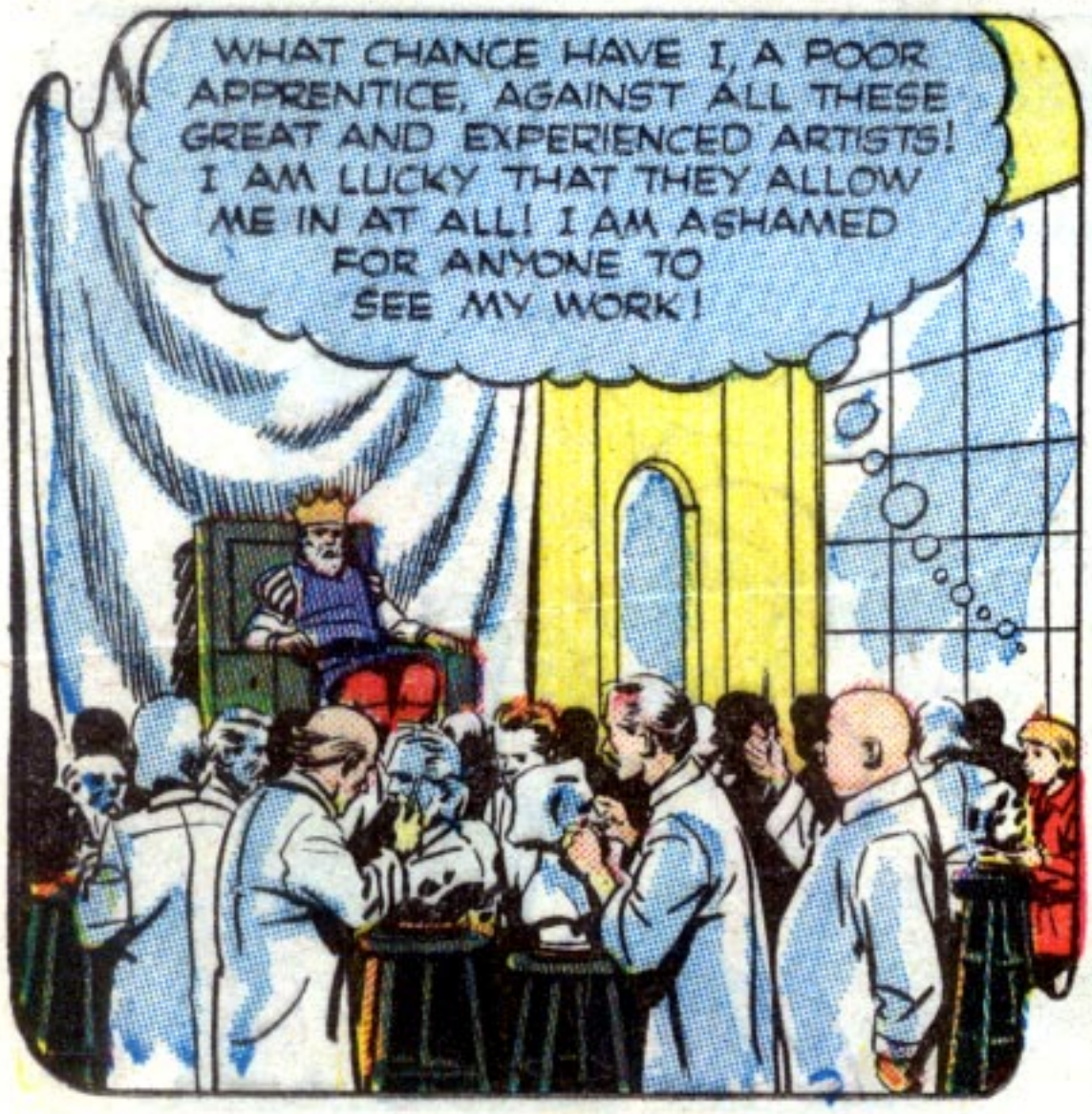
OH, MASTER GERALD, YOU ARE SO GOOD TO ME! TO THINK THAT I WILL BE THERE WITH ALL THE SCULPTORS OF THE KINGDOM...AND HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF TRYING TO MAKE A STATUE OF THE KING!
HOW CLEVER OF ME! NOW I WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT MY PLAN IN SECRET!


TODAY I AM GOING TO USE A NEW KIND OF MUD PACK, YOUR ROYAL MAJESTY—ONE THAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO YOU!
GOOD! I WISH TO LOOK MY BEST, FOR THIS VERY AFTERNOON I BEGIN SITTING FOR MY PORTRAIT FOR ALL THE SCULPTORS IN THE REALM!

THAT IS INDEED A STRANGE TYPE OF MUD PACK! IT FELT AS HARD AS STONE AS IT DRIED!
AH, YES, BUT IT HAS DONE WONDERS FOR YOU! IT MELTS AWAY THE YEARS!

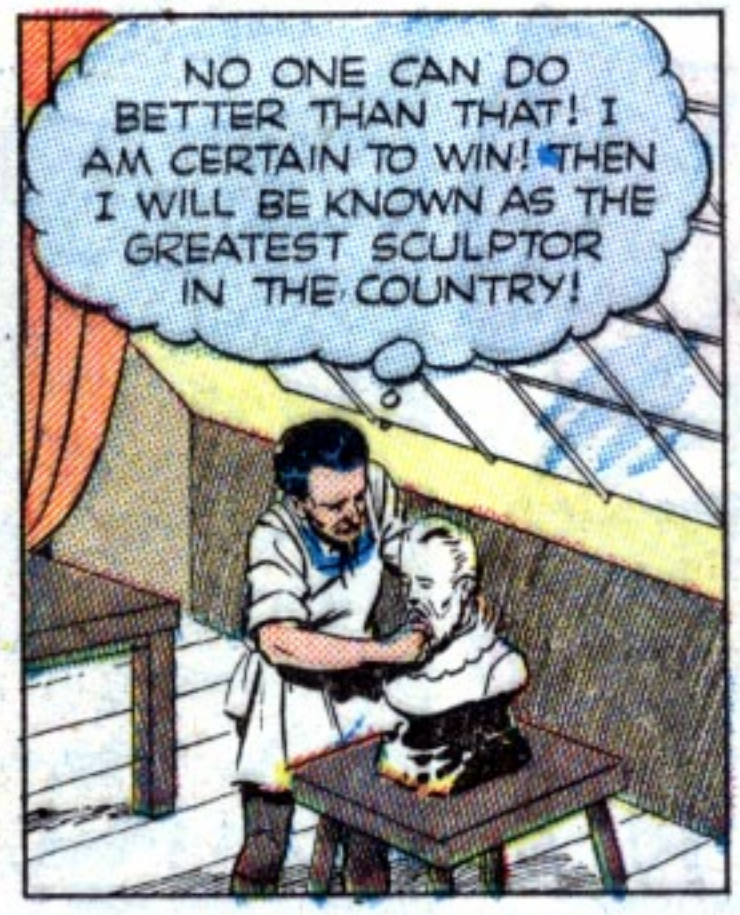
HERE IT IS! BE SURE NO ONE DISCOVERS WHAT I HAVE DONE... AND DON'T FORGET, SHOULD YOU WIN—HALF THE PRIZE IS MINE!
OF COURSE.. OF COURSE!

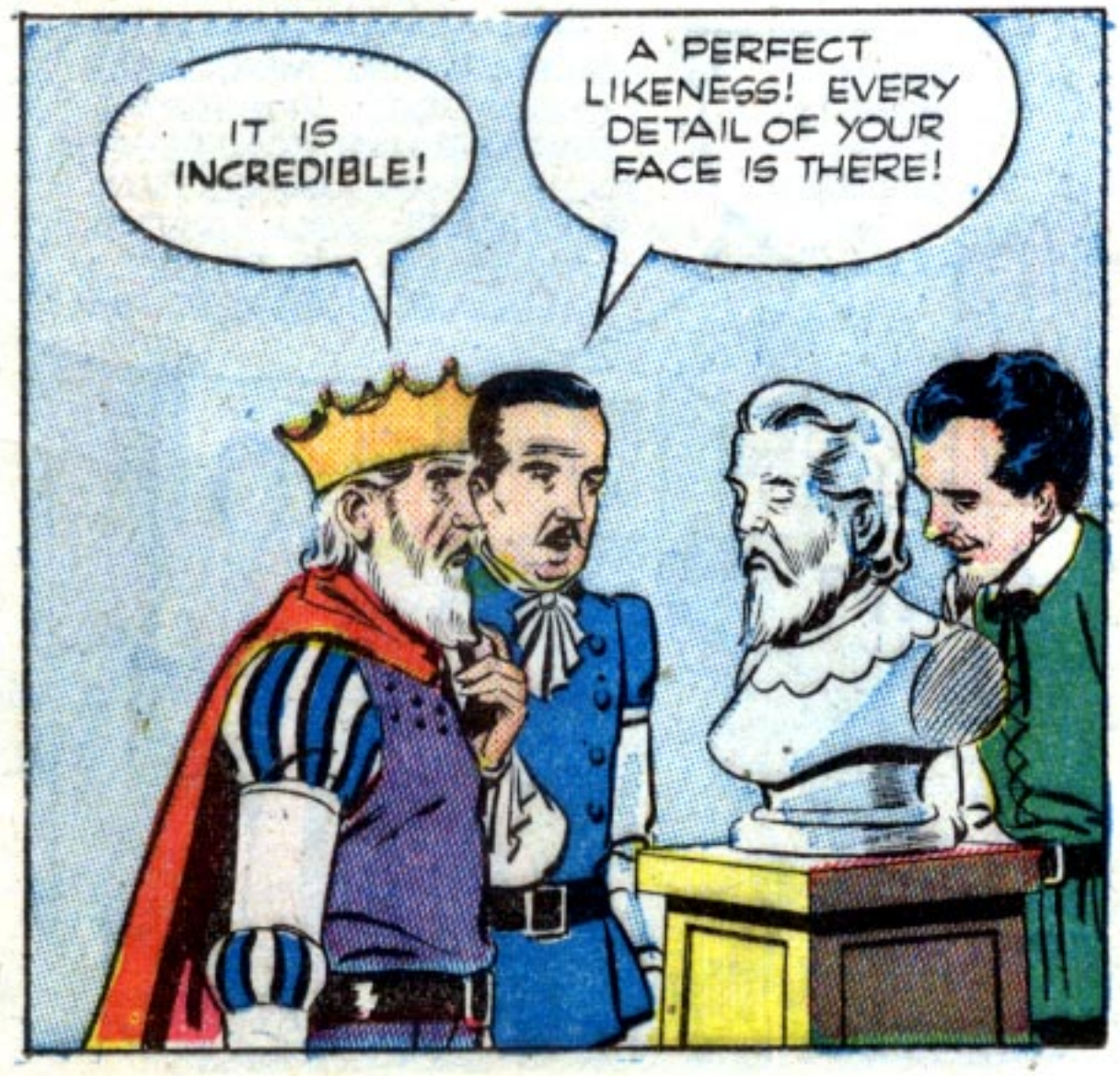
AS SOON AS I GET THIS DONE, I WILL BREAK THE CAST SO NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW! WITH THE FACE MOULDED IN A PERFECT LIKENESS, IT WILL BE EASY TO COMPLETE THE HEAD AND SHOULDERS MYSELF!


WHAT CHANCE HAVE I, A POOR APPRENTICE, AGAINST ALL THESE GREAT AND EXPERIENCED ARTISTS! I AM LUCKY THAT THEY ALLOW ME IN AT ALL! I AM ASHAMED FOR ANYONE TO SEE MY WORK!

OH, YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN AT THE SITTING, SIRE! EVERY SCULPTOR KNOWN AND UNKNOWN WAS THERE! HE WILL POSE EACH DAY THIS WEEK, AND THEN ALL THE WORK WILL BE SHOWN AND THE KING WILL CHOOSE!

The days passed and as Roger attended the sittings at the palace, Gerald worked feverishly in his studio...

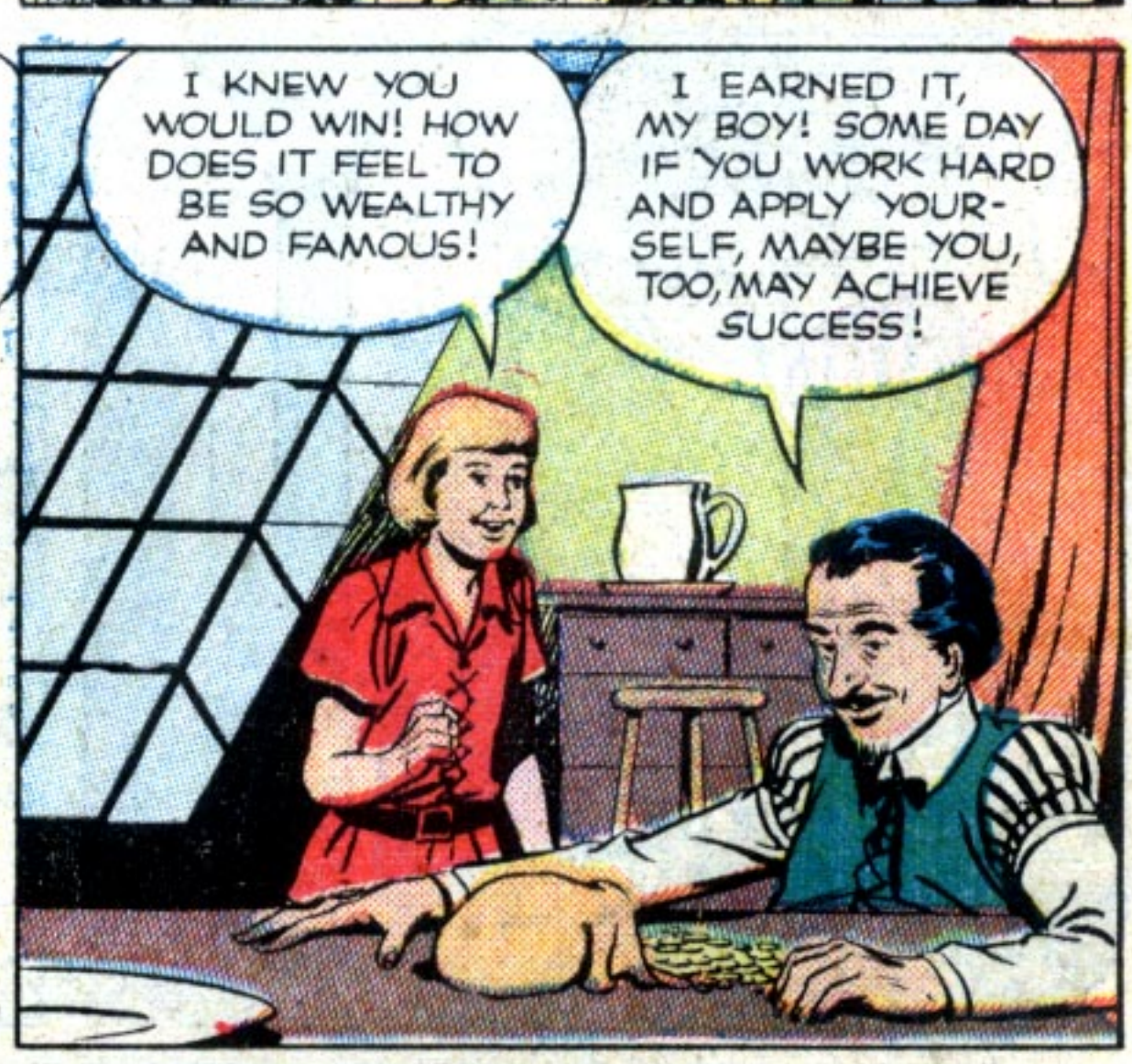




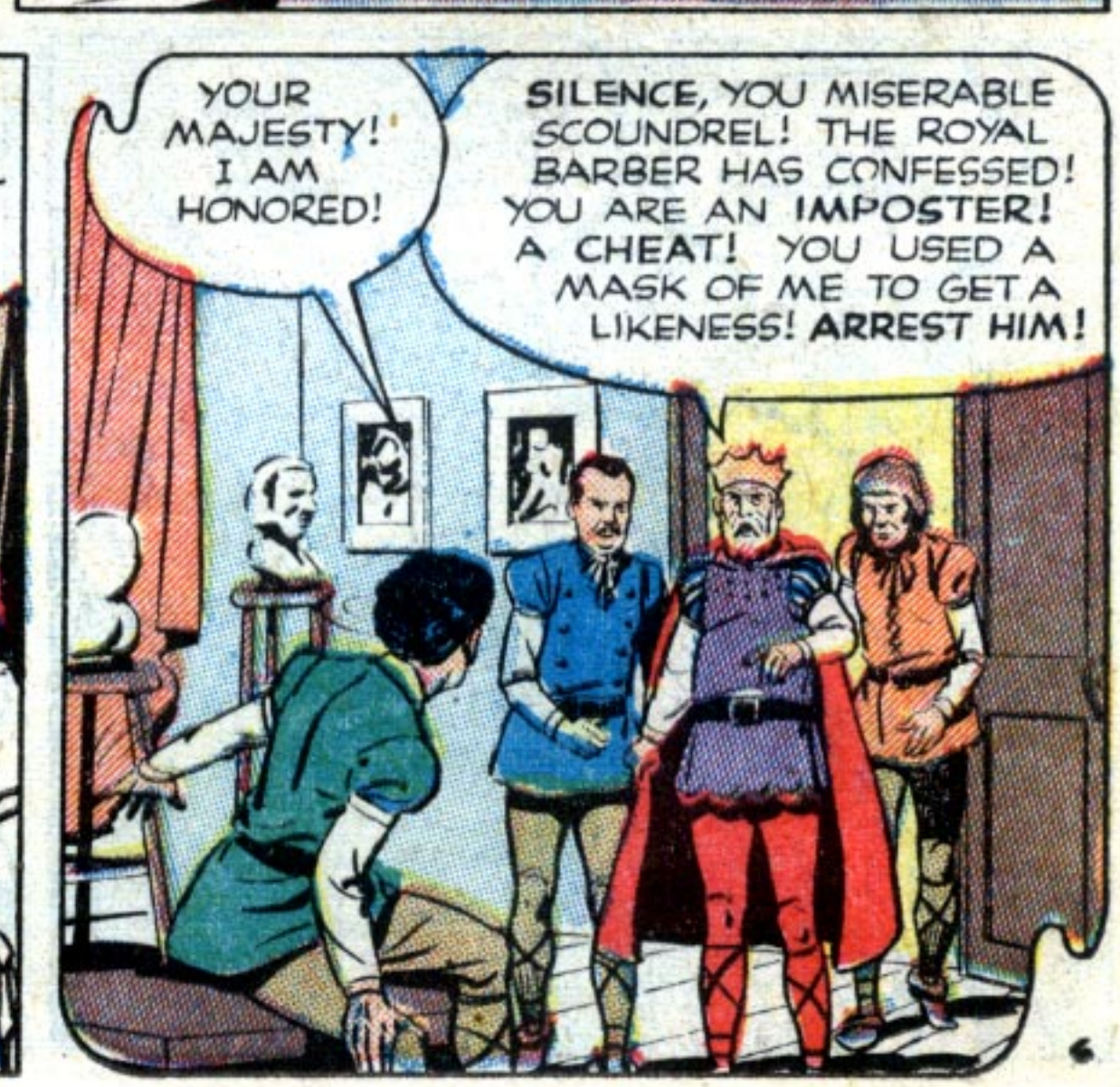
HERE IS THE WINNER! GIVE HIM THE BAG OF GOLD! HIS SCULPTURE IS INDEED THE MOST LIFELIKE AND REAL!
THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY! I AM DEEPLY HONORED!

SO YOU WON! CONGRATULATIONS! AND NOW, WHAT OF YOUR PROMISE?
SHH! NOT IN FRONT OF ALL THESE CROWDS! COME WITH ME!
THE IDIOT! I WILL SHOW HIM WHAT A FOOL HE IS! WHY SHOULD I SHARE HALF WITH HIM?

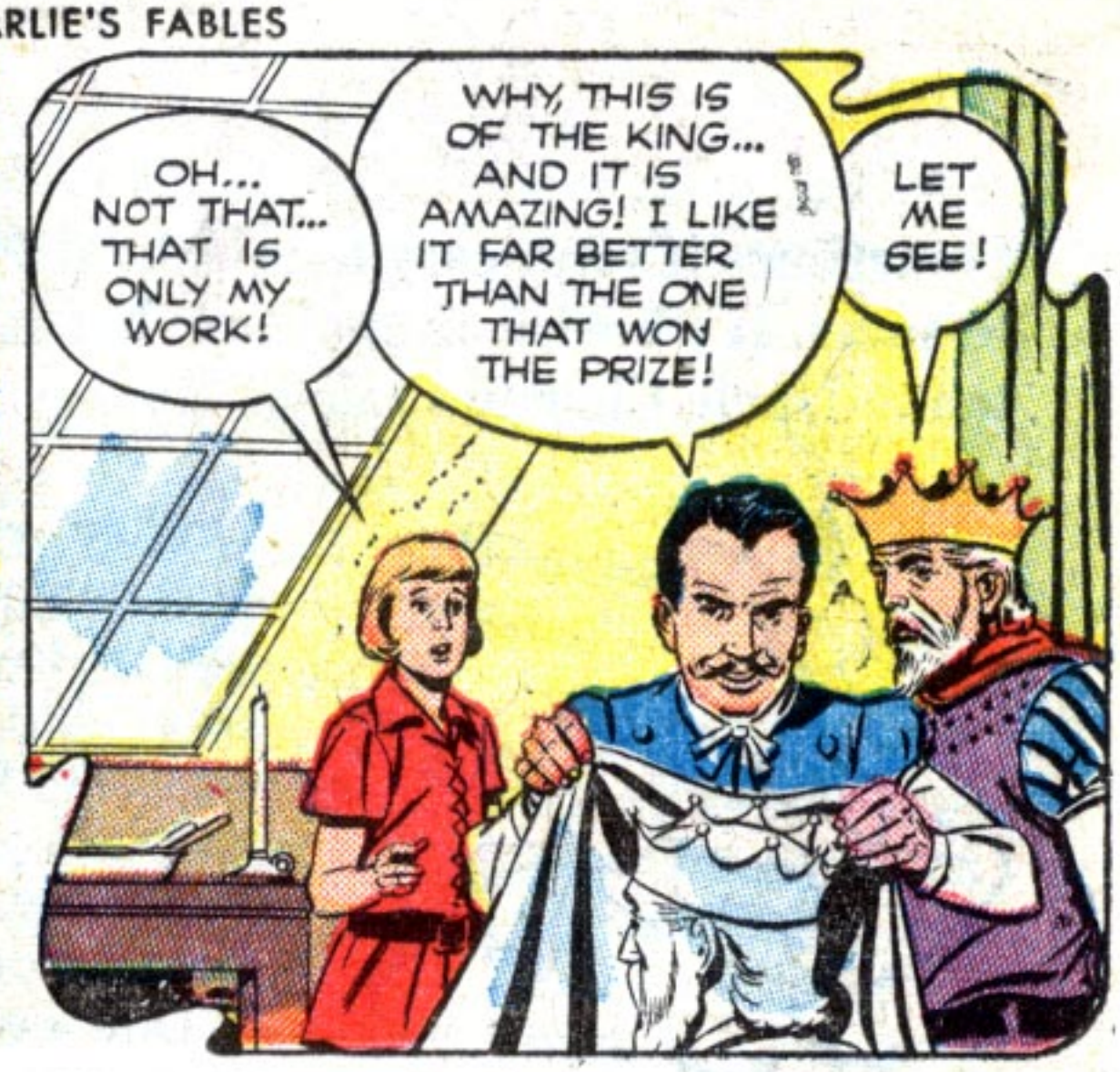
THREE PIECES OF GOLD! BUT YOU PROMISED ME HALF OF THE PRIZE! I DEMAND THAT YOU PAY IT, OR I'LL TELL THE KING!
YOU WOULD NOT DARE! IF YOU DID, YOU WOULD BRING AS MUCH TROUBLE ON YOURSELF AS ON ME! TAKE THIS AND BE GRATEFUL! GOOD DAY!


I KNEW YOU WOULD WIN! HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE SO WEALTHY AND FAMOUS!
I EARNED IT, MY BOY! SOME DAY IF YOU WORK HARD AND APPLY YOURSELF, MAYBE YOU, TOO, MAY ACHIEVE SUCCESS!

BE MERCIFUL, YOUR MAJESTY! I COULD NOT RESIST THE PROMISE OF ALL THAT GOLD! I KNOW WHAT I DID WAS WRONG! I SHOULD NOT HAVE DECEIVED YOU!
YOU WRETCH! THROW HIM IN JAIL! I SHALL SEE TO THAT SCOUNDREL OF A SCULPTOR PERSONALLY! MY CARRIAGE!


YOUR MAJESTY! I AM HONORED!
SILENCE, YOU MISERABLE SCOUNDREL! THE ROYAL BARBER HAS CONFESSED! YOU ARE AN IMPOSTER! A CHEAT! YOU USED A MASK OF ME TO GET A LIKENESS! ARREST HIM!

PLEASE, YOUR MAJESTY, DON'T ARREST HIM! HE WAS DESPERATE TO WIN THE PRIZE! HE IS REALLY A GOOD SCULPTOR AND A GREAT TEACHER! HE MIGHT EASILY HAVE WON WITHOUT CHEATING IF HE HAD NOT BEEN SO HARD PRESSED FOR MONEY!
LET ME SEE SOME OF HIS REAL WORK!


OH... NOT THAT... THAT IS ONLY MY WORK!
WHY, THIS IS OF THE KING... AND IT IS AMAZING! I LIKE IT FAR BETTER THAN THE ONE THAT WON THE PRIZE!
LET ME SEE!

THIS IS WHAT I WAS HOPING TO FIND! THIS IS THE STATUE I HAD IN MIND! THAT OTHER WAS A LIKENESS, BUT IT WAS LIFELESS! THIS IS ALIVE! WHY DID YOU NOT SHOW THIS?
I DID NOT DO IT! IT IS THE WORK OF ROGER, MY APPRENTICE!

THE GOLD IS YOURS, LAD! AND I WISH YOU TO COME TO THE PALACE! I WILL APPOINT YOU TO BE THE ROYAL SCULPTOR! WILL YOU AGREE?
OH, YES, GLADLY, YOUR MAJESTY! THERE IS JUST ONE SMALL FAVOR I ASK! FORGIVE MY TEACHER, GERALD BEALE! PLEASE DO NOT PUNISH HIM FOR HE HAS LEARNED HIS LESSON!

VERY WELL! FOR YOUR SAKE I WILL FORGIVE HIM AND THE BARBER AS WELL! NOW GATHER UP YOUR BELONGINGS AND COME ALONG, LAD! I'LL WAIT FOR YOU IN MY CARRIAGE!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

HERE, GERALD, TAKE THE GOLD! I WILL NOT NEED IT AT THE PALACE! IT IS THANKS TO YOUR TEACHING THAT I WON IT!
GOLD CANNOT WIN BACK MY SELF-RESPECT!

The End

Daring Dudley Deer

Sometimes it's not easy to tell the difference between courage and recklessness. It's a wise animal that heeds the teachings of his parents. Listen to Uncle Charlie's tale of Dudley the athletic deer.

Dudley was very popular in school. Not only was he popular but he was very smart, he belonged to the honor society. Not only was he smart but he was one of the leading athletes, he broke the record in the broad jump and no one had yet surpassed him. Yet Dudley was foolhardy. This worried his mother very much because deer are not foolhardy animals.

One evening as Mother and Father Deer were sitting under a large pine tree in the forest, Mother Deer said to Father,

"What are we going to do with Dudley?"

"Just take him in hand," grunted Father Deer as he munched on a clump of grass.

"But it all started when I named him after his Uncle Dudley," continued Mother Deer. "Now he seems almost a carbon copy. And just think what happened to poor Uncle Dudley!"

"Now don't be silly, Mother," Father Deer said. "Just because we named Dudley for his uncle doesn't mean that's why he's like his uncle."

"There's only one thing to do," said Mother Deer, "You must have a heart-to-heart talk with him, a father-to-son talk."

"What!" gulped Father Deer. "Who? Me?"

Dudley had heard many things about Uncle Dudley. He had been one of the most handsome young bucks in the forest and one of the most courageous.

There was one thing that bothered Dudley more than anything else. Why was it whenever he was introduced to his mother's friends, one would say,

"Why Dudley, you look just like your uncle." Then aside to another she would say, "Isn't it a shame!"

Another might say, "I hear you're living up to your name, Dudley. But don't go too far." What did they mean, these does? Thus Dudley mused as he wandered through the forest after dinner. Time passed swiftly, then determined to ask his father, Dudley headed toward the thicket that was his home.

"Dudley, what is it?" his father suddenly asked, having been aroused by Dudley's entrance.

"Father," said Dudley in a broken voice, "what is it about Uncle Dudley that I should know?"

"Dudley," Father Deer quietly said to him.

"Come with me." Father Deer crawled out of his soft bed of grass, motioned with his antlers for Dudley to follow him. Dudley followed as quietly as his hoofs would carry him and his father led him into the forest.

Father Deer talked quietly to Dudley all the way. "We've told you never to go beyond the clearing and into the forest, Dudley," he said. "When you do you are taking the chance that your Uncle Dudley took and he never came back!"

"We have learned to stay away from men who wear bright red hats and shirts and carry long rods they call guns," continued Father Deer. "These guns make a loud noise and something flies out of them, so swift and deadly you can't run fast enough to escape. Tonight we are going farther from home than I ever want you to go—farther than I ever go."

"But what about Uncle Dudley?" asked Dudley in a weak voice.

"You shall see in a moment." As Father Deer answered they approached a large log building, set deep in the forest. Light glowed from the windows. Father Deer stopped suddenly. Dudley was so surprised at the sudden halt he ran right into his father.

"Careful, Dudley," exclaimed his father. "Be quiet. There is what men call a Hunting Lodge."

"But what is a Hunting Lodge?" queried Dudley, his brown eyes wide in amazement and glowing in the dark.

"It is where the men in the red hats and shirts stay," explained Father Deer. "If we are quiet we can look through the window."

Quietly and stealthily they crept toward the window. Father Deer peered in first, then Dudley looked in.

There was a flicker of firelight which illuminated the whole room. Peering down from the walls were heads of vicious bears, wildcats and mountain lions. Dudley pulled his head away, quivered violently and whispered, "Oh, Father, they'll jump right at us—we'd better go home!"

"No, Dudley, they won't jump," his father answered. "They have been killed by the guns and their heads put on the walls."

"Oh, Father, it's very kind of the red-hatted men to kill the animals before the animals kill us," sighed Dudley in relief.

"Perhaps," mused his father, "but look above the fire."

Dudley gathered up his courage to look again. Above the stone fireplace was the head of a magnificent buck, his antlers had the widest spread Dudley had ever seen.

"Oh, Father," Dudley gasped as he drew his head away.

"That is your Uncle Dudley," said Father Deer. "He would not stay in the clearing. He was so brave and bold and courageous."

"I understand now, Father," answered Dudley meekly. "But, let's go home, shall we?"

After that memorable evening a change came over Dudley Deer. Friends who used to think he was like his Uncle Dudley changed their minds. Dudley was still popular, still smart and still the leading athlete but he no longer led the other boys into the forest, he reserved his courage for the time he'd need it and didn't waste it on foolhardy schemes.

the Merry Elves of Scotland

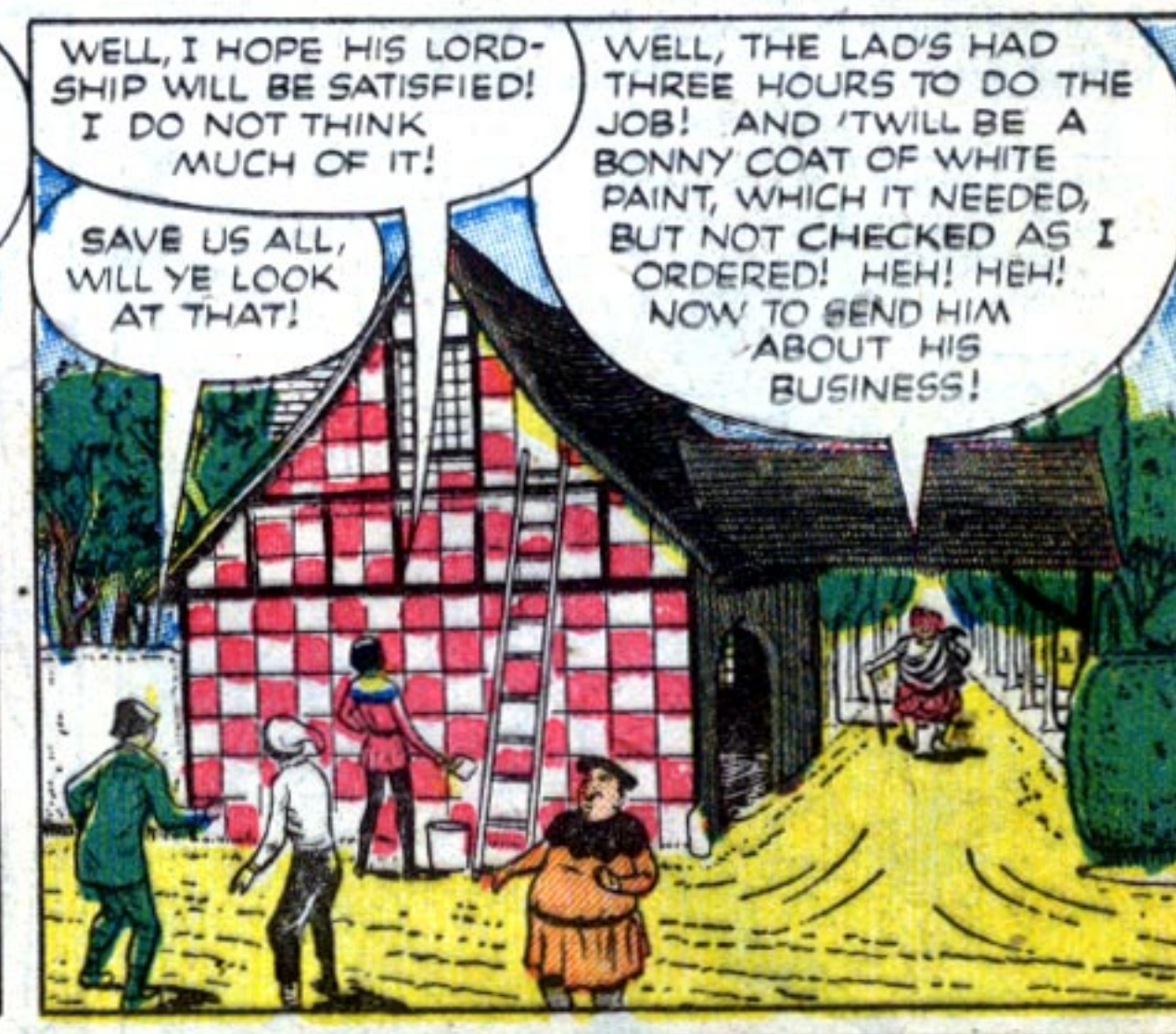
As I told you, in those olden times, many people claimed to have seen and spoken to gnomes and elves. Angus was one of them...

AT LEAST I'M LEARNING ALL THE WAYS NOT TO MIX IT! PERHAPS NOW WHEN I POUR IT THROUGH A SIEVE WITH SQUARE HOLES...
HM! POOR ANGUS SEEMS TO BE HAVIN' A WEE BIT O' TROUBLE!
THAT HE DOES! POOR LADDIE!

I ALMOST HAD IT THAT TIME BUT THE DRATTED COLORS ALL RAN TO-GETHER, AND... OH! 'TIS THE ELVES! WHAT HAVE YOU THERE?
IT'S CHECKED PAINT YOU'RE WANTING, ISN'T IT?
AND IT'S CHECKED PAINT YOU'RE GETTING!
'TIS OUR OWN SPECIAL MIX!

DID YOU GIVE THE LAD AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK, AS I INSTRUCTED?
AYE, MY LORD! I SET HIM TO MIXING A PAIL OF (HO! HO!) CHECKED PAINT!
HERE'S YOUR CHECKED PAINT, MASTER HOUSE PAINTER!
WHAT!? LET ME SEE THAT PAINT!

CHECKED, YE SAY, YOU RASCAL? IT DOESN'T LOOK CHECKED TO ME!
I'LL PROVE IT TO BE A FIB! ANGUS, GO AND PAINT MY GATE HOUSE! I'LL BE ALONG LATER TO OBSERVE YOUR PROGRESS!
A CHECKERED GATE HOUSE? 'TWILL LOOK AWFUL!
DO AS I SAY! NOW BE OFF!


WELL, I HOPE HIS LORD-SHIP WILL BE SATISFIED! I DO NOT THINK MUCH OF IT!
WELL, THE LAD'S HAD THREE HOURS TO DO THE JOB! AND 'TWILL BE A BONNY COAT OF WHITE PAINT, WHICH IT NEEDED, BUT NOT CHECKED AS I ORDERED! HEH! HEH! NOW TO SEND HIM ABOUT HIS BUSINESS!
SAVE US ALL, WILL YE LOOK AT THAT!

OH, NO! NO! WHY—IT IS CHECKED!
AYE, MY LORD! IS IT TO YOUR LIKING?
OH-AH... Y..YES! VERY... ER...BRIGHT AND CHEERY!

HA! HA! HA! SO YOU'RE ANGUS McNAB, MY NEW STEEPLEJACK APPRENTICE! GO FETCH A SKY-HOOK AND MEET ME AT THE STEEPLE WITHIN THE HOUR!
A SKYHOOK? AS YOU SAY, MASTER STEEPLEJACK!

HA! HA! SKYHOOK! HA! HA! HA!
GULP! IT WOULD SEEM THEY'RE NOT SO EASY TO COME BY!

PSST! ANGUS! HERE'S A SKYHOOK FOR YE, LADDIE!
IT IS? WHAT WOULD I EVER DO WITHOUT YOU?
IT ISN'T REALLY A SKYHOOK, BUT HERE'S WHAT YE DO! LISTEN CAREFULLY!
WE DO THIS BECAUSE WE LIKE YOUR SIMPLE HONESTY!

THAT'S A SKY-HOOK, YOU SAY? WELL, HANG IT FROM THE SKY THEN, AND HOIST YOUR-SELF UP!
VERY WELL! I'LL TOSS IT UP NOW! ONE... TWO...

THERE! I HOOKED A CLOUD ON THE VERY FIRST TRY! DO YOU WANT ME TO GO TO THE TOP OF THE STEEPLE?
Y..YOUR LORDSHIP! THE SKYHOOK! HE GOT ONE, HEAVEN KNOWS WHERE, AND IT WORKS...
IT'S A BLACK MAGIC TRICK OF SOME SORT!
ANGUS! COME DOWN! I WISH TO TEST IT MY-SELF!

WHOOSH! THE OLD LARDTUB IS TOO HEAVY!
HE'S TOO HEAVY FOR US!
SINK ME! IT DOES WORK, AT THAT! AMAZING!
WE DIDN'T FIGURE ON HOLDING HIM UP!

FOOSH TO HIM! LET HIM GO, THE OLD FATTY!
OHH! MY FEET!!
CRASH!

LOOK AT MY LEGS! LOOK AT THEM! THEY WON'T STRAIGHTEN OUT! THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, ANGUS McNAB!
I GOT A SKYHOOK STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD ME UP, YOUR LORDSHIP! YOU DIDN'T TELL ME YOU WANTED A HEAVY DUTY ONE!
ALL RIGHT! REPORT TO THE COBBLER TOMORROW!

THIS IS MY LAST TEST, MASTER COBBLER! WHAT ARE YOUR INSTRUCTIONS?
YOU ARE TO MAKE A PAIR OF SHOES! HERE'S THE PATTERN! NOW GET BUSY!

Later...
FINISHED, ARE YE? HOOT, MON! YE FORGOT TO REVERSE THE PATTERN FOR THE SECOND SHOE! THE PERSON WHO WEARS THESE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE TWO LEFT FEET!
WOE IS ME! I'VE FAILED!
TWO LEFT FEET, IS IT? IN THAT CASE...

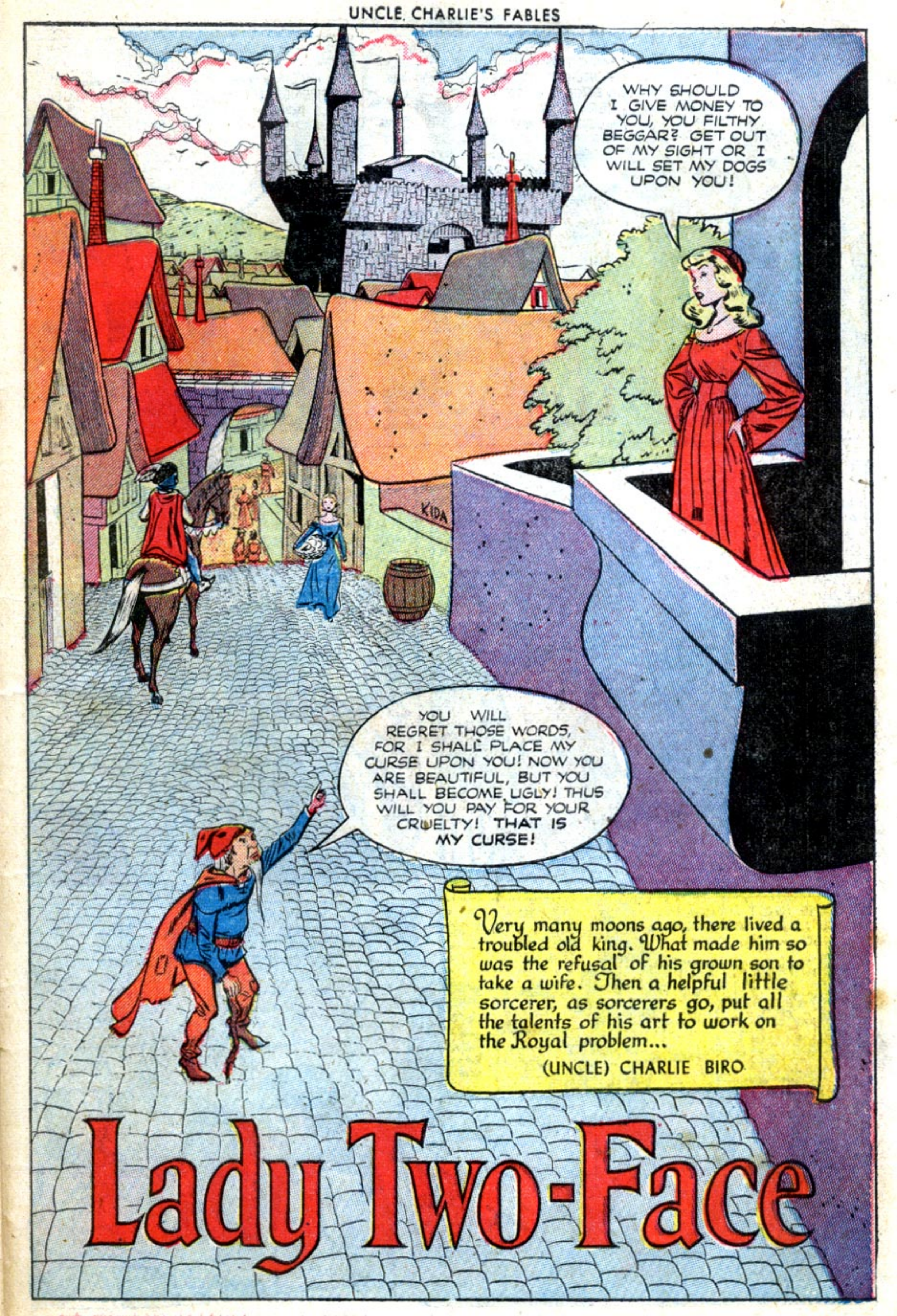
OOH! SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG WITH MY RIGHT SHOE! IT'S KILLING ME! IT HAPPENED FROM MY FALL! DO SOMETHING, COBBLER!
DINNA FRET, YER LORDSHIP! LET ME FETCH YE A NEW PAIR! (ODD, I NEVER BEFORE NOTICED THE EARL WAS SO BOWLEGGED!)

OWW! NO, THESE DON'T FIT EITHER! GET SOME OTHERS!
BUT YOU'VE TRIED ON EVERY SHOE IN MY SHOP! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!
WAIT! HERE'S THE PAIR I MADE! TRY THESE!

AHH! THESE ARE EXACTLY RIGHT! WHY DID YOU NOT BRING THESE OUT FIRST? THEY FEEL WONDERFUL!
PSST! YOUR LORDSHIP! THESE SHOES WERE MADE BY ANGUS! DON'T ADMIRE THEM ALOUD!
BE STILL NOW! I'LL HANDLE THE REST!

ELVES!! WHY, I NEVER BELIEVED THERE WERE CREATURES LIKE YOU!
LISTEN TO US, YOU OLD GOAT! WE HAVE BEEN WATCHING YOUR CRUEL ATTEMPTS TO DISCOURAGE TRUE LOVE! UNLESS YOU LET ANGUS MARRY YOUR DAUGHTER, AND BE THE MINSTREL HE WANTS TO BE, YOU'LL SPEND YOUR LIFE WITH BOWLEGS, AND TWO LEFT FEET!
AND NOT TO MENTION A CHECKERED GATE HOUSE!
THINK THAT OVER!

AH, JEANNIE, MY DARLING, IT'S MINE YOU ARE FOREVER, NOW!
GO ON, SAY WHAT I TOLD YE, YOUR LORDSHIP!
ER...AH...ANGUS, MY BOY, WOULD YOU PLAY US A WEE SELECTION ON YOUR HARP? I LOVE MUSIC! ESPECIALLY HARP MUSIC!
the End


WHY SHOULD I GIVE MONEY TO YOU, YOU FILTHY BEGGAR? GET OUT OF MY SIGHT OR I WILL SET MY DOGS UPON YOU!
KIDA
YOU WILL REGRET THOSE WORDS, FOR I SHALL PLACE MY CURSE UPON YOU! NOW YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL, BUT YOU SHALL BECOME UGLY! THUS WILL YOU PAY FOR YOUR CRUELTY! THAT IS MY CURSE!
Very many moons ago, there lived a troubled old king. What made him so was the refusal of his grown son to take a wife. Then a helpful little sorcerer, as sorcerers go, put all the talents of his art to work on the Royal problem...
(UNCLE) CHARLIE BIRO
Lady Two-Face

HAVE YOU SEEN THE MAIDEN YOU WOULD CHOOSE FOR A BRIDE, PRINCE RICHARD? YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOUR FATHER WANTS TO SEE YOU TAKE A WIFE!
NO, HAMMOND! YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL!
THANK YOU, MY DEAR, IT WAS VERY KIND OF YOU TO COME! BUT YOU, TOO, ARE GOOD ONLY BECAUSE IT IS PROPER BUT NOT OUT OF YOUR HEART!

HAS YOUNG RICHARD MADE HIS CHOICE?
NO, YOUR MAJESTY! HE IS MOST COURTEOUS TO THEM ALL, BUT WILL NOT CHOOSE ONE! WAIT! HERE HE COMES NOW!

FATHER, IT IS USELESS!
I WILL NEVER MARRY UNTIL I MEET A GIRL WHO HAS LEARNED THE TRUE BEAUTY OF BEING GOOD THROUGH KNOWING THE FOLLY OF BEING BAD!
NONSENSE! THESE ARE THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER GIRLS IN THE ENTIRE KINGDOM—YOU WILL FIND NO BETTER! RICHARD... RICHARD, YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I WISH TO SEE YOU HAPPILY MARRIED BEFORE I DIE!

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, YOUR HIGHNESS, BUT SOME PRISONERS ARE READY FOR SENTENCING NOW!
WHAT? OH, YES, I SUPPOSE SO! BRING THEM IN THE THRONE ROOM, I SHALL BE READY IN A FEW MOMENTS!
BE MERCIFUL, FATHER!

THE FIRST PRISONER IS...AH, A SORCERER, YOUR MAJESTY!
YOU KNOW THE PUNISHMENT FOR SORCERY! TAKE HIM AWAY!

WAIT, FATHER! IF HE WERE REALLY A SORCERER, HE WOULD NOT CRY, AS HE COULD EASILY ESCAPE!
BUT I AM A SORCERER, AND I AM A GOOD ONE! I WOULD SHOW YOU IF I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY!

I COULD NOT ESCAPE! EVEN SORCERERS CANNOT WALK THROUGH STONE WALLS! BUT I HAVE DONE NO EVIL! YOUR FATHER SHOULD NOT IMPRISON ME FOR LIVING THE ONLY WAY I KNOW HOW!
YOU CANNOT CONVINCE ME OF YOUR MAGIC POWERS, BUT I TOO, DO NOT BELIEVE YOU SHOULD BE LOCKED UP!

THIS MAN HAS ALREADY BEEN CONVICTED, RICHARD!
MOST IRREGULAR!
HE HAS COMMITTED NO CRIME, FATHER! I TRULY BELIEVE HE SHOULD GO FREE!

HE SEEMS LIKE A KIND LITTLE MAN WHO WANTS TO BE LEFT TO HIMSELF!
VERY WELL! I SUPPOSE YOU ARE RIGHT! YOU MAY GO FREE, BUT YOU MUST LEAVE THE KINGDOM OR YOU WILL PAY WITH YOUR LIFE!
NOW I WILL HAVE TO CHANGE THE RECORDS! SUCH BOTHER!

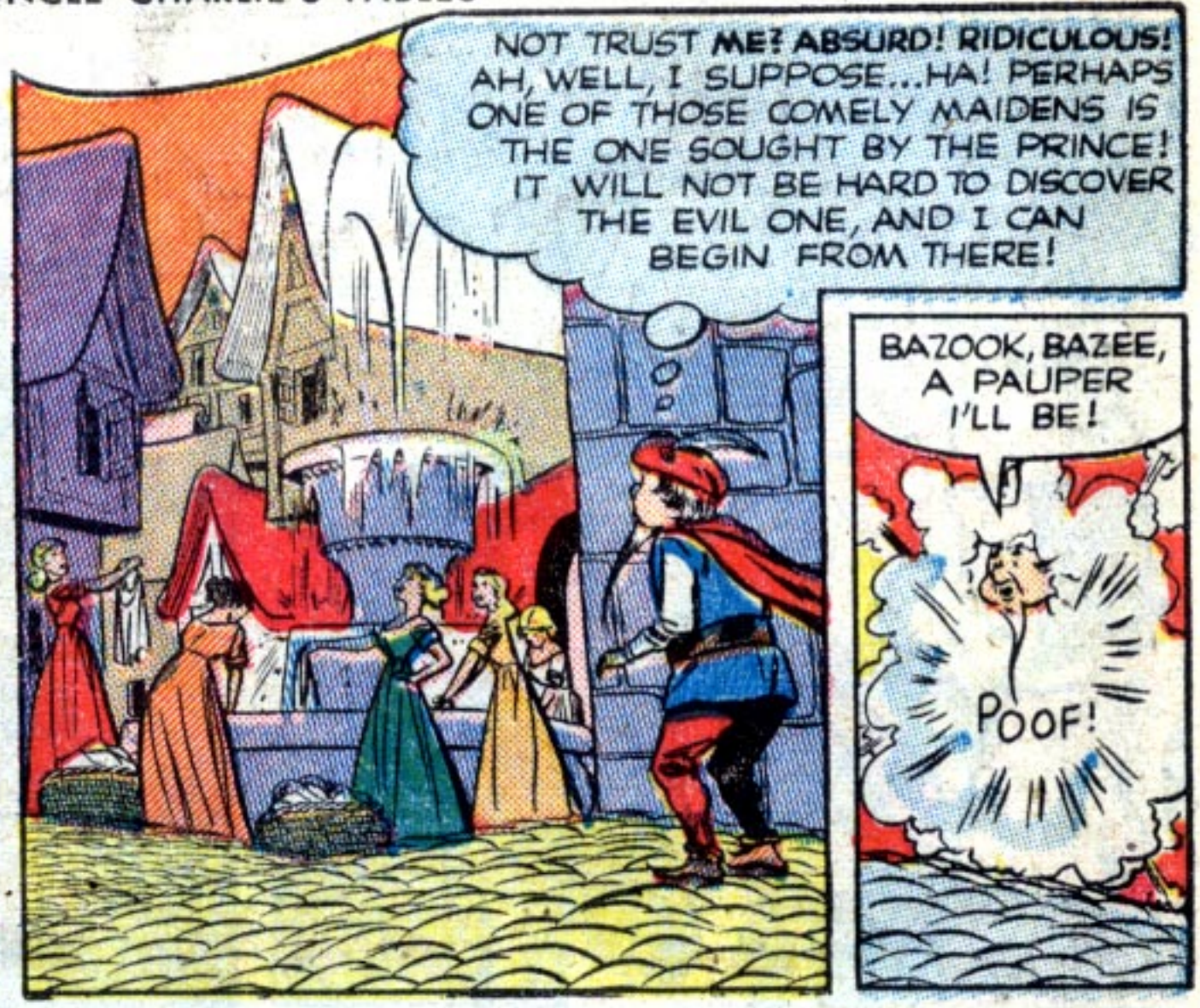
I CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH, PRINCE RICHARD! HOW CAN I BE OF SERVICE TO YOU?
DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELF WITH THAT, JUST BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU PRACTICE YOUR SORCERY! HA! HA! GOOD-BY, I MUST GO TO MY ROOM BEFORE THEY BRING MORE GIRLS FOR ME TO APPRAISE!

PRINCE RICHARD! COME TO THE WINDOW! I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE CALLING FROM BENEATH MY WINDOW!

I DID NOT WANT TO SPEAK BEFORE, BUT I KNOW OF YOUR PROBLEM! I CAN FIND THE GIRL YOU ARE SEEKING!
DO YOU KNOW OF A GIRL WHO HAS LEARNED THE TRUE BEAUTY OF GOODNESS FROM KNOWING THE AGONY OF BEING EVIL?

DO NOT WORRY, RICHARD! LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME! YOU WILL BE HEARING FROM ME SOON!

I AM MOST SORRY, BUT I SEEM TO HAVE LOST MY PURSE! I WILL COME BY AND PAY YOU TOMORROW!
VERY WELL! IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL KEEP YOUR HORSE AND ASSURE YOUR RETURN!


NOT TRUST ME? ABSURD! RIDICULOUS! AH, WELL, I SUPPOSE...HA! PERHAPS ONE OF THOSE COMELY MAIDENS IS THE ONE SOUGHT BY THE PRINCE! IT WILL NOT BE HARD TO DISCOVER THE EVIL ONE, AND I CAN BEGIN FROM THERE!
BAZOOK, BAZEE, A PAUPER I'LL BE!
POOF!

WILL ANY OF THESE PRETTY MAIDENS HELP A POOR OLD MAN?
I WILL HELP YOU!
THIS IS ALL I HAVE, BUT YOU MAY TAKE IT!
HE LOOKS SO SMALL AND WEAK! COME, LET US GIVE HIM ALL WE CAN!

IF THE PRINCE WANTS SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN EVIL, HE WILL NOT FIND HER AMONGST THOSE GENEROUS MAIDENS! AH, PERHAPS THIS BEAUTY...
WHY SHOULD I GIVE YOU MONEY, YOU FILTHY OLD BEGGAR! GET AWAY, OR I SHALL HAVE YOU DRAGGED AWAY!
COULD YOU HELP A POOR OLD MAN, BEAUTIFUL LADY?

AH, HERE IS AN EVIL ONE!
DON'T TRY TO FRIGHTEN ME WITH YOUR EMPTY CURSES, OLD MAN!
YOU WILL REGRET THOSE WORDS! I WILL TEACH YOU THE AGONY OF BEING SHUNNED BY OTHERS! THAT IS MY CURSE!

ARE YOU CERTAIN THAT PRINCE RICHARD WILL BE SPENDING THE NIGHT AT THE SEA-HORSE TAVERN?
I HEARD IT FROM A FRIEND AT THE PALACE! HURRY, LET US ALL GET ROOMS THERE BEFORE THEY ARE FILLED UP!
AH! THIS SOUNDS LIKE MY CHANCE TO MEET THE PRINCE!

I AM FAR MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE OTHERS; THEY WILL HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST MY CHARMS! I SHALL CALL MY CARRIAGE, AND LEAVE AT ONCE FOR THE TAVERN!

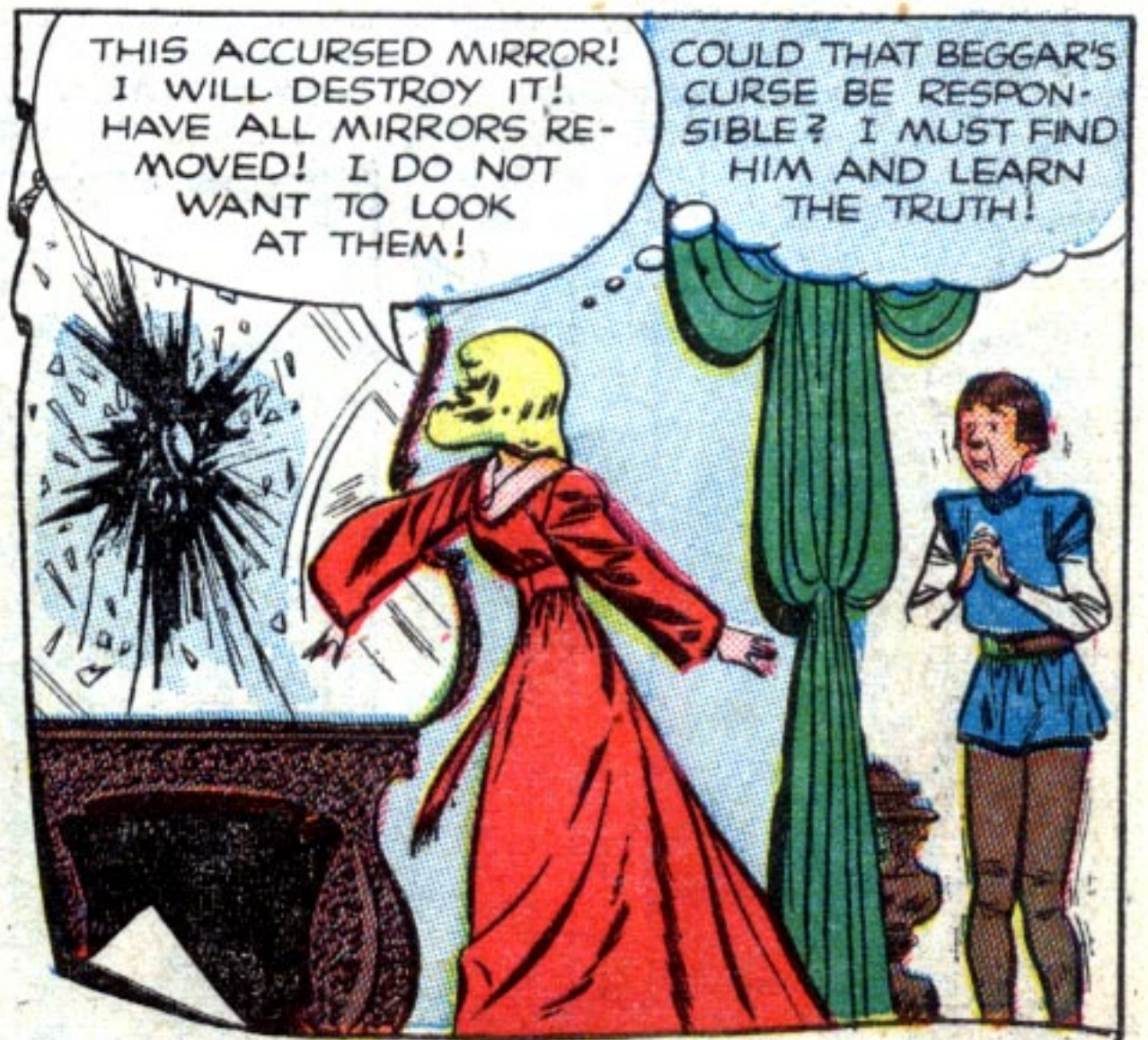
I AM SORRY, BUT WE ARE COMPLETELY FULL!
YOU MUST GIVE ME A ROOM! DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

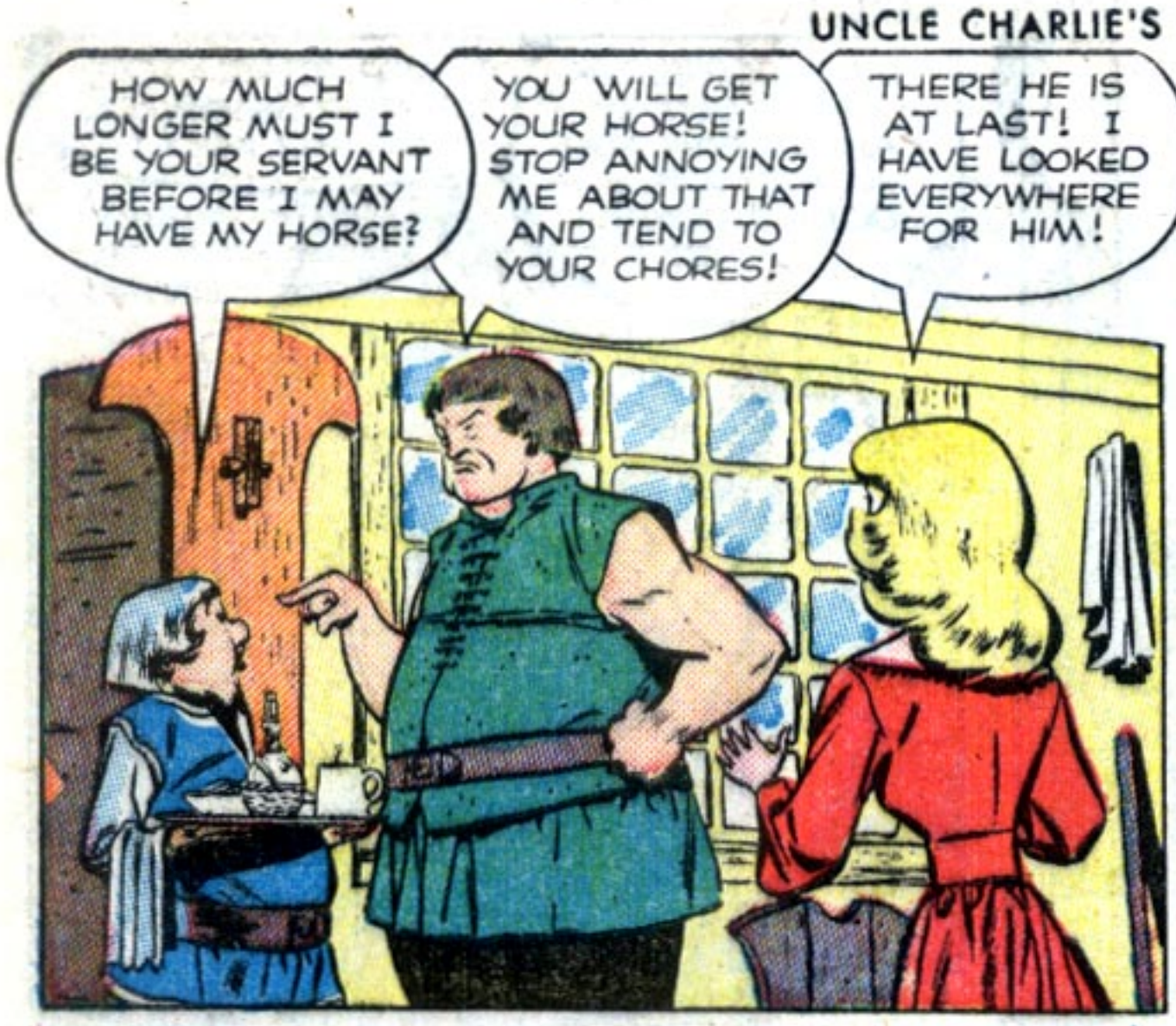
I AM SORRY, MY LADY, BUT I CANNOT GIVE YOU A ROOM IF... DON'T! DON'T HIT ME!
I WILL TEACH YOU TO REFUSE ME, YOU STUPID FOOL!
MERCY! THE OIL LAMP!

EEAAAEEEKKK!!

IT WAS A HORRIBLE ACCIDENT, BUT...
I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY! IF IT HAD TO HAPPEN TO SOMEONE, NO ONE DESERVED IT MORE THAN HELENA!
IT SEEMS HEARTLESS, BUT YOU ARE RIGHT! SHE WAS CRUEL AND SELFISH AND CARED NOTHING FOR OTHERS!

UGLY! I CANNOT EVEN BEAR TO LOOK AT MY OWN FACE! NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO LOOK AT ME NOW! NO ONE WILL LOVE ME! OH, I AM SO WRETCHED!


THIS ACCURSED MIRROR! I WILL DESTROY IT! HAVE ALL MIRRORS REMOVED! I DO NOT WANT TO LOOK AT THEM!
COULD THAT BEGGAR'S CURSE BE RESPONSIBLE? I MUST FIND HIM AND LEARN THE TRUTH!


HOW MUCH LONGER MUST I BE YOUR SERVANT BEFORE I MAY HAVE MY HORSE?
YOU WILL GET YOUR HORSE! STOP ANNOYING ME ABOUT THAT AND TEND TO YOUR CHORES!
THERE HE IS AT LAST! I HAVE LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR HIM!

I BEG OF YOU TO RETURN MY BEAUTY! I KNOW I DESERVED YOUR CURSE, BUT I HAVE HAD MY PUNISHMENT!
I AM SORRY, MY CHILD, BUT I CAN DO NOTHING! YOUR FACE WILL REMAIN THE SAME UNTIL YOU ARE KISSED BY A PRINCE! ONLY THEN WILL THE SPELL BE BROKEN!

THEN MY FACE WILL NEVER CHANGE! NO ONE CAN BEAR TO LOOK AT IT AND NO PRINCE WILL EVER KISS IT!
AH, THIS IS WORKING JUST AS I PLANNED! I MUST REPORT TO PRINCE RICHARD!

AH, THERE, PRINCE RICHARD, I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU! IF YOU WILL GO TO THIS ADDRESS, DRESSED AS A PAUPER, YOU WILL FIND THE GIRL WHOM YOU HAVE BEEN SEEKING!
A PAUPER? IT SOUNDS VERY STRANGE BUT I WILL DO AS YOU SAY!

IT IS BUT A POOR HUMBLE BEGGAR, MY LADY, ASKING FOR WHATEVER YOU CAN GIVE...A CRUST OF BREAD?..A BONE, PERHAPS?
WAIT THERE A MOMENT! I WILL BE BACK!

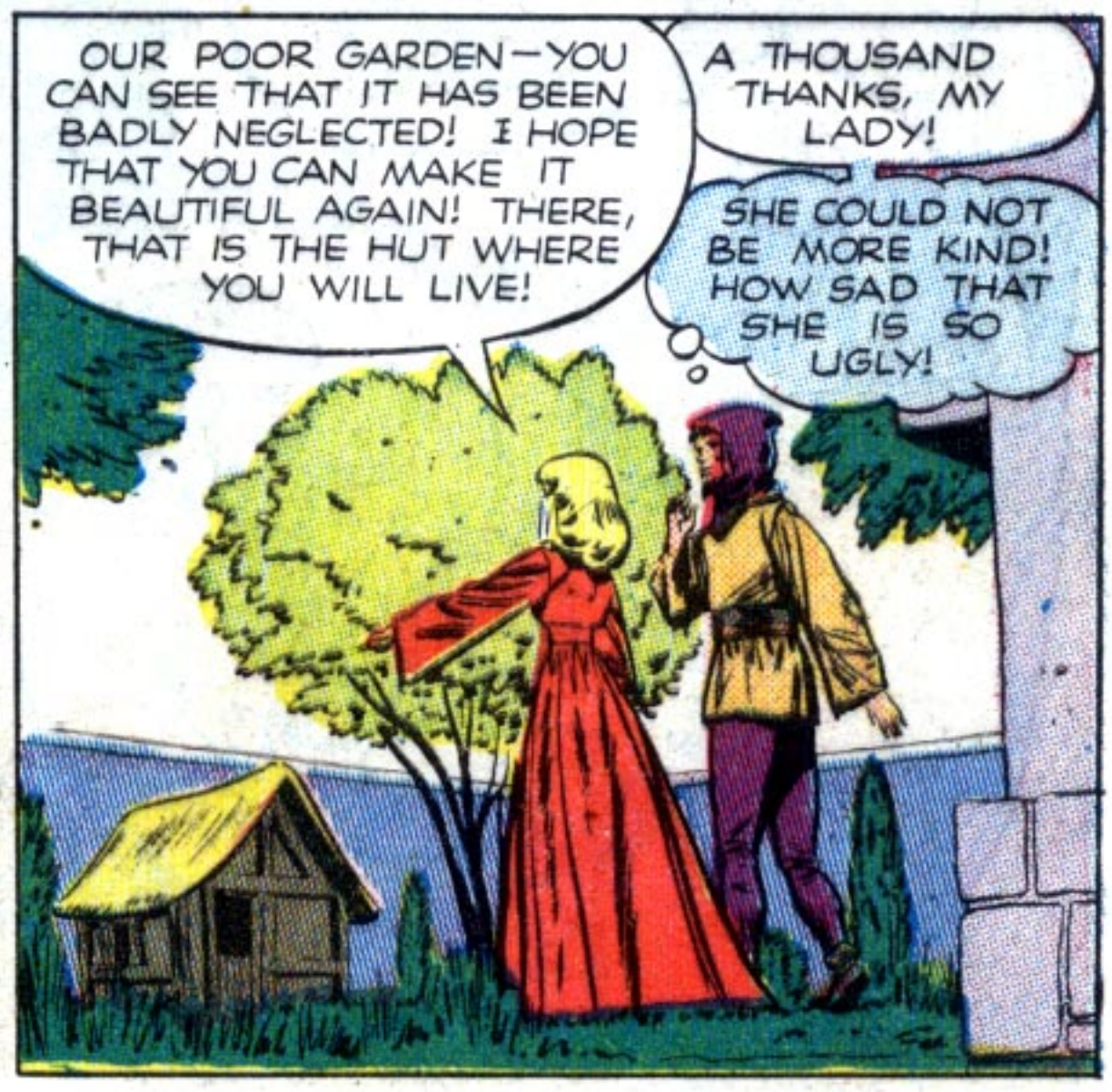
PERHAPS THIS WILL HELP YOU GET ANOTHER START, MY UNFORTUNATE FRIEND!
BUT..BUT, THERE MUST BE OVER THIRTY GOLD PIECES! COME, YOU MUST LET ME SEE THE FACE OF SO KIND A PERSON!
NO! YOU MUST NOT!

OHHH! SHE'S UGLY!

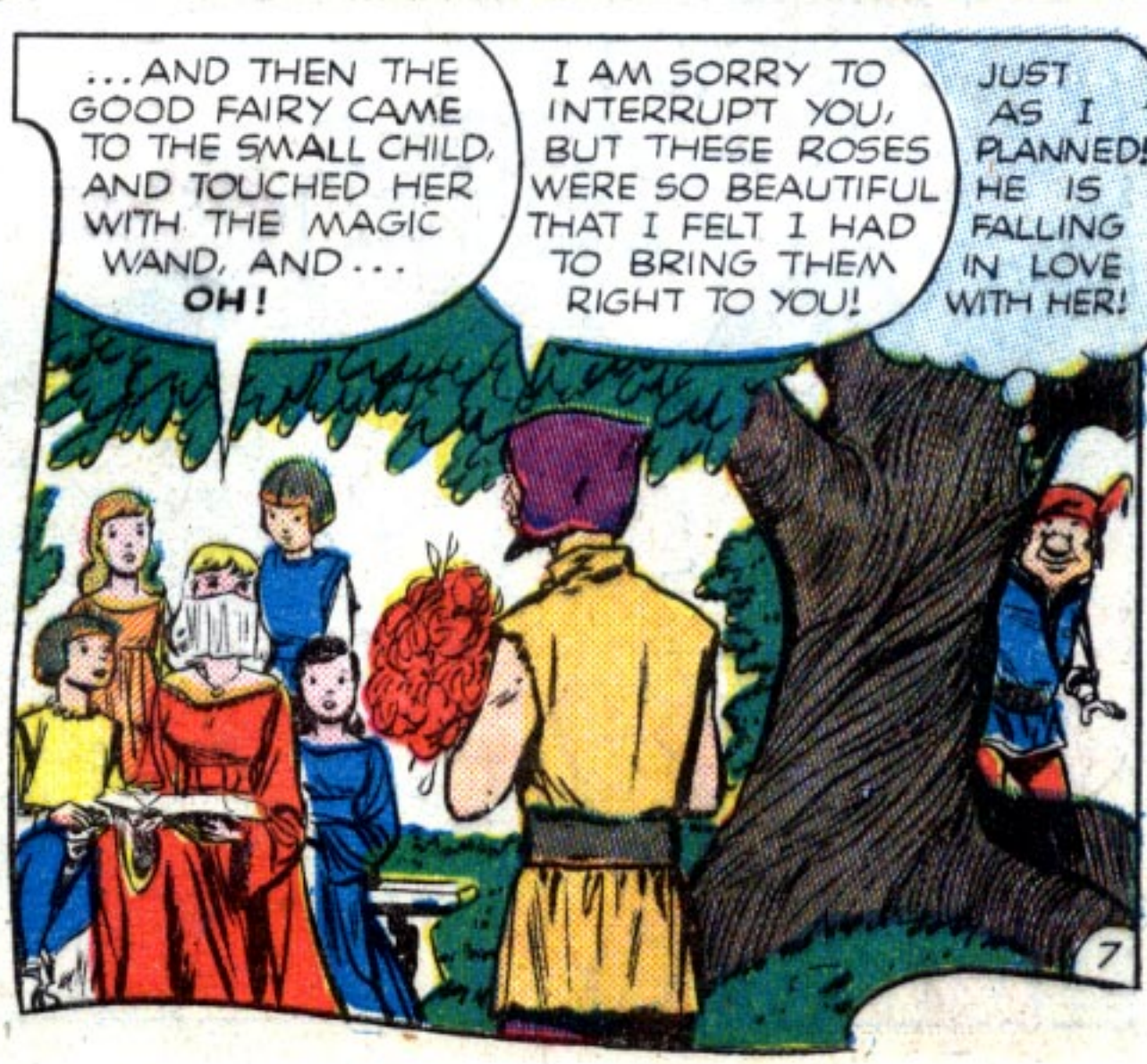
I WAS BEAUTIFUL ONCE! :SOB!: :SOB!:
YOU HAVE BEAUTY OF HEART! THAT IS WHAT COUNTS!

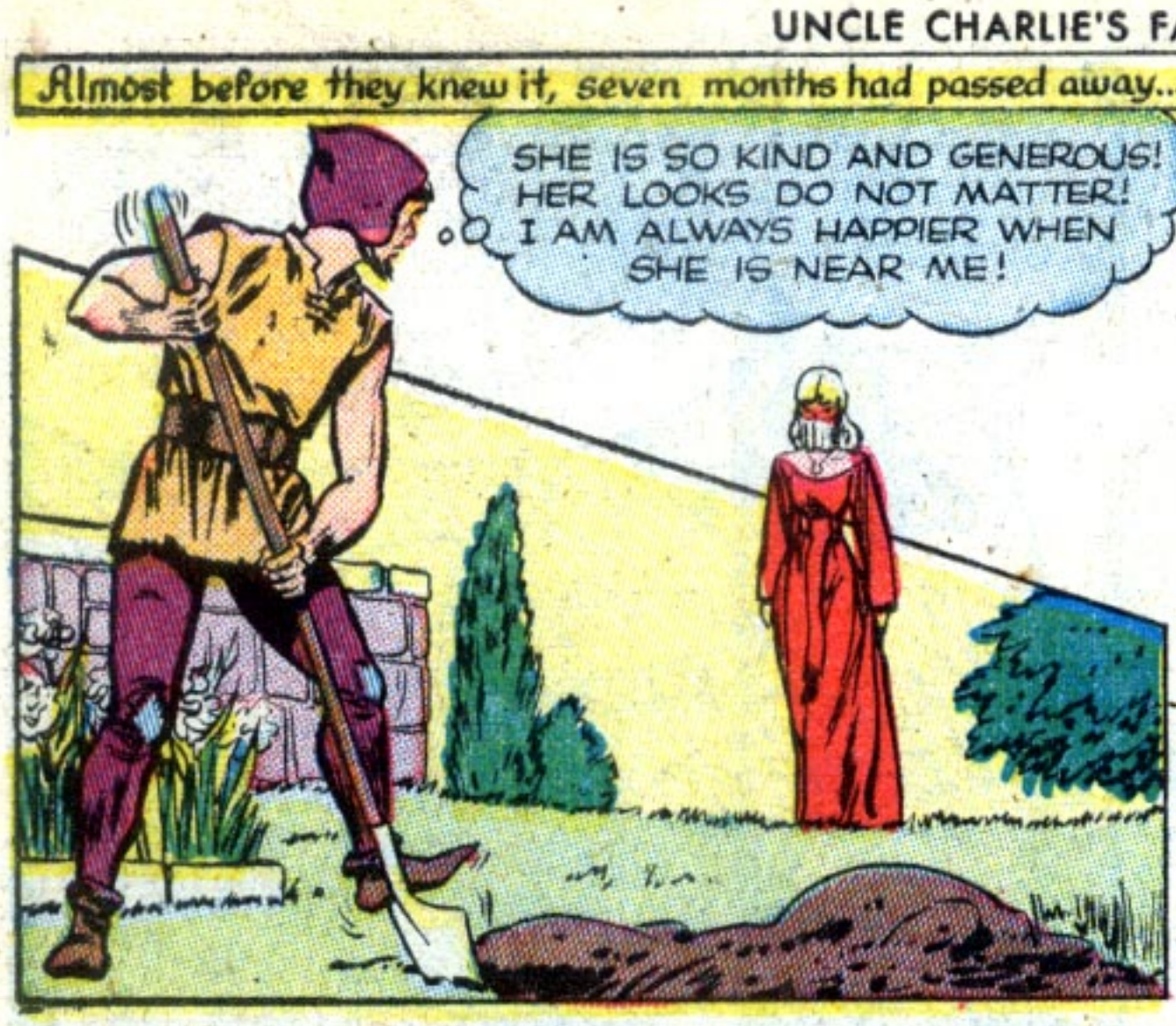
WAS THAT SOME KIND OF JOKE? SHE WAS UNBEARABLY UGLY!
IF I AM TO HELP YOU, RICHARD YOU MUST TRUST ME! GO BACK TO THAT HOUSE, AND ASK FOR A JOB AS THE GARDNER! THEN, IN SEVEN MONTHS, ON THE SEVENTH DAY, AT THE SEVENTH HOUR YOU WILL SEE A DAMSEL MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ALL YOUR DREAMS!

I HAVE COME BACK, KIND LADY, TO ASK A GREAT FAVOR! NOW I MUST FIND EMPLOYMENT! I OFFER MYSELF AS YOUR GARDENER, IF YOU WILL EMPLOY ME!
OF COURSE YOU MAY HAVE THE JOB! WE WILL BE THE RICHER FOR HAVING SUCH AN HONEST WORKER!


OUR POOR GARDEN—YOU CAN SEE THAT IT HAS BEEN BADLY NEGLECTED! I HOPE THAT YOU CAN MAKE IT BEAUTIFUL AGAIN! THERE, THAT IS THE HUT WHERE YOU WILL LIVE!
A THOUSAND THANKS, MY LADY!
SHE COULD NOT BE MORE KIND! HOW SAD THAT SHE IS SO UGLY!

Several months later...
IT IS SO WARM IN THIS SUN... I HAVE BROUGHT YOU A GLASS OF LEMONADE!
YOU ARE TOO GOOD TO ME! YOU HAVE SPOILED ME SO THAT I SHALL NEVER BE ABLE TO WORK FOR ANYONE ELSE!
I BELIEVE HE IS ALREADY BEGINNING TO FORGET HER FACE!

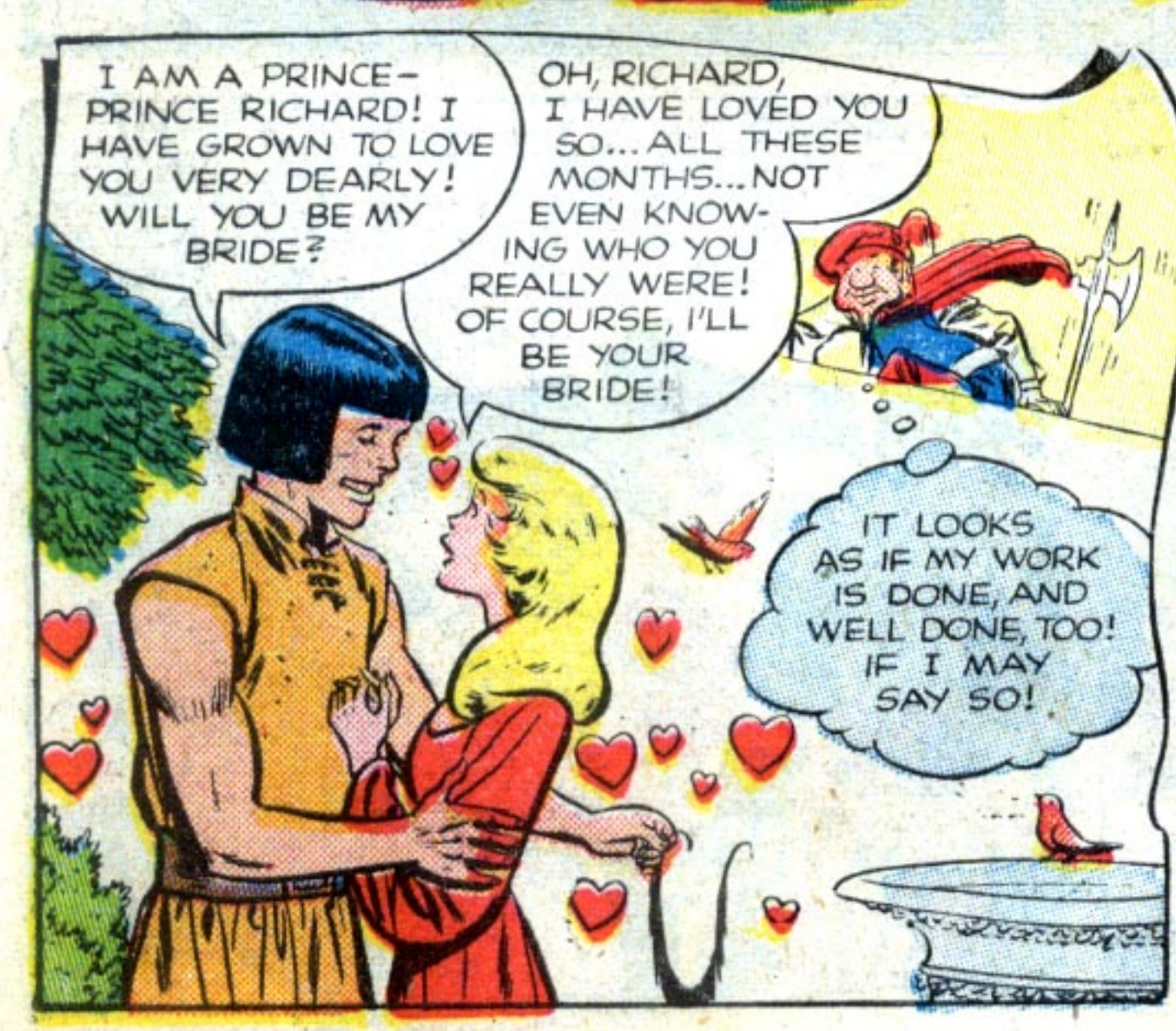

...AND THEN THE GOOD FAIRY CAME TO THE SMALL CHILD, AND TOUCHED HER WITH THE MAGIC WAND, AND... OH!
I AM SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU, BUT THESE ROSES WERE SO BEAUTIFUL THAT I FELT I HAD TO BRING THEM RIGHT TO YOU!
JUST AS I PLANNED! HE IS FALLING IN LOVE WITH HER!


Almost before they knew it, seven months had passed away...
SHE IS SO KIND AND GENEROUS! HER LOOKS DO NOT MATTER! I AM ALWAYS HAPPIER WHEN SHE IS NEAR ME!

IT BREAKS MY HEART TO TELL, BUT...YOU MUST LEAVE US! MY FATHER HAS LOST HIS WEALTH AND WE CAN NO Llonger KEEP YOU!
IF I MUST GO, I MUST!

BUT BEFORE I DO, I WANT TO KISS YOU FAREWELL!

YOU...YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL! THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL I HAVE EVER SEEN!
BUT...BUT THE CURSE WAS NOT TO BE REMOVED UNTIL I WAS KISSED BY A PRINCE!


I AM A PRINCE— PRINCE RICHARD! I HAVE GROWN TO LOVE YOU VERY DEARLY! WILL YOU BE MY BRIDE?
OH, RICHARD, I HAVE LOVED YOU SO... ALL THESE MONTHS...NOT EVEN KNOWING WHO YOU REALLY WERE! OF COURSE, I'LL BE YOUR BRIDE!
IT LOOKS AS IF MY WORK IS DONE, AND WELL DONE, TOO! IF I MAY SAY SO!

STOP THERE! ARE YOU NOT A WICKED SORCERER!
NO, BUT I AM A GOOD SORCERER— ASK PRINCE RICHARD!
The End

UNCLE CHARLIE'S FABLES

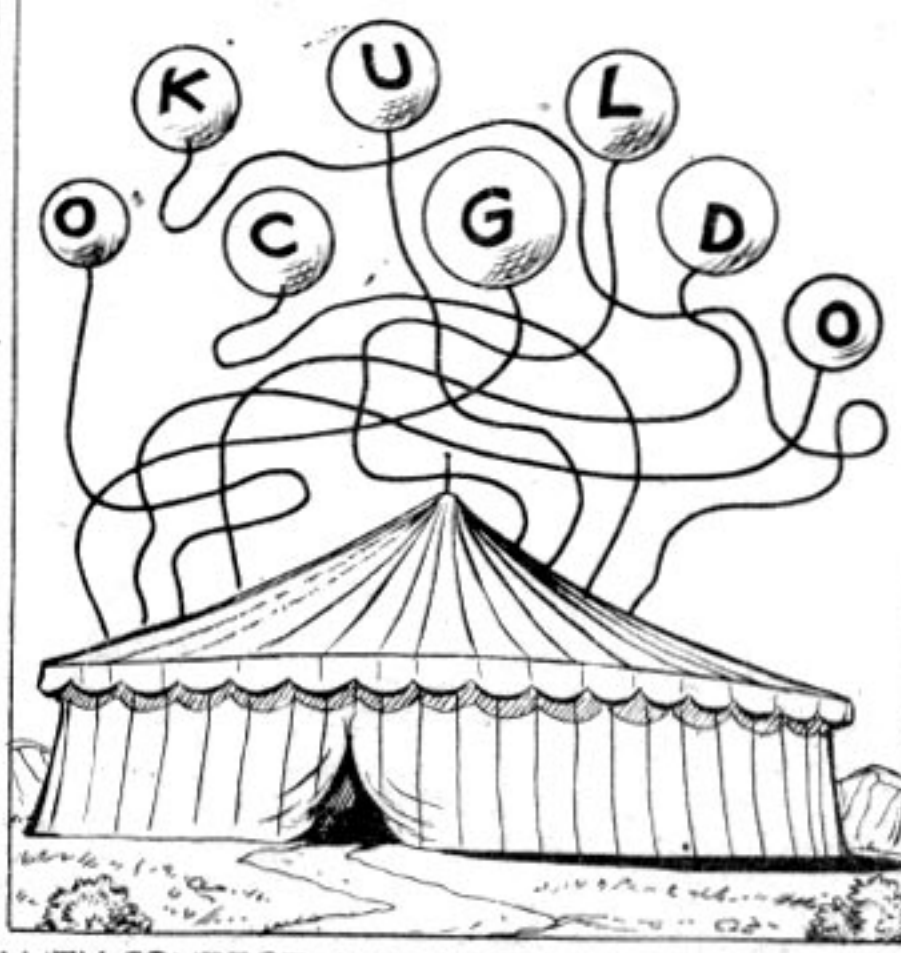
PUZZLE PAGE

ALL OF THE PLEASURE-SEEKING KNIGHTS AND LADIES HAVE GONE TO THE CARNIVAL! SUPPOSING WE DROP IN, TOO, AND SEE IF WE CAN HELP STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT! BUT DON'T LOOK AT THE ANSWERS TILL YOU'RE FINISHED!

(1) IT'S TIME FOR THE BAREBACK RIDERS TO DO THEIR ACT—BUT THE HORSES HAVE ALL DISAPPEARED! THE TRAINERS ARE MYSTIFIED! HOW MANY HORSES CAN YOU HELP THEM FIND?

(2) LET'S CONNECT THE DOTS AND FIND OUT WHAT IN THE WORLD ALL THESE PEOPLE ARE LOOKING AT!

(3) THE WIND SEEMS TO HAVE MIXED UP THE BALLOONS FLYING OVER THE MAIN TENT! SEE IF YOU CAN UNSCRAMBLE THIS HAPPY MESSAGE!



NO CARNIVAL IS COMPLETE WITHOUT A BEAUTY CONTEST AND HERE ARE THE CONTESTANTS! THEY ALL RESEMBLE EACH OTHER BUT ARE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT—THAT IS, ALL BUT TWO WHO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE! CAN YOU FIND THEM?

TURN PAGE UPSIDE DOWN FOR ANSWERS!

(1) FIVE HORSES. (2) HAM ON THE HOOF. (3) GOOD LUCK. (4) 2 + 5